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23 STATES AGREE TO ATTEND ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE

LD151508 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 15 Jan 80 LD

[Text] Jidda--Twenty-three states have agreed to attend the meetings of the emergency conference of foreign ministers of the Islamic countries to be held on 26 January in Islamabad [as received] to discuss the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

Qasim az-Zuhayri, assistant general secretary of the Islamic Congress Organization, has stated that the secretariat is still receiving further agreements [to attend the conference]--from the member states of the organization.

STEADFASTNESS, CONFRONTATION FRONT TO MEET IN DAMASCUS

PLO Delegation

NC151214 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1115 GMT 15 Jan 80 NC

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee held an emergency meeting this morning under brother leader Abu 'Ammar to discuss the current situation.

During the meeting the PLO Executive Committee decided to send a delegation to a foreign ministers meeting of the steadfastness and confrontation countries which will be held in Damascus tomorrow. The delegation consists of brother Abu al-Lutf, chairman of the PLO Political Department, who will head the delegation, and PLO Executive Committee members brothers 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar and Yasir 'Abd Rabbu.

PDRY Foreign Minister Arrives

JN151444 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Jan 80 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus--Salim Salih Muhammad, Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] candidate member and minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Damascus this morning to attend the emergency meeting of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front foreign ministers.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, led those who met the visiting minister.

In a statement to the SANA correspondent, Salim Salih Muhammad said: I have the pleasure of conveying the congratulations of President 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il and the YSP Central Committee Politburo to President Hafiz al-Asad and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party leadership on the success of the party's seventh congress.

Salim Salih Muhammad cited the recent moves by the imperialist powers' fleets in the Arab region, which represent blatant interference in and a direct threat to the security and stability of the region's states. He added that such moves make it imperative to hold consultations within the framework of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front in order to confront the challenges and threats faced by our Arab nation now that As-Sadat has become the spearhead in implementing the plots of the powers that are hostile to our Arab nation.

The PDRY minister concluded: We are confident that our conference will lead to positive results and steps, which will serve the Arab people's interest and bolster the role of the Confrontation and Steadfastness Front in shouldering its full responsibilities in the confrontation of the enemies of our Arab nation's rights and interests.

ADDRESSES BEIRUT RALLY ON 'ABD AN-NASIR BIRTHDAY

NC160920 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0558 GMT 16 Jan 80 NC

[Speech by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on 15 January at festive rally, Arab University of Beirut to unveil statue for Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir on the anniversary of 62d birthday--recorded]

[Excerpts] Brothers, at this time, plots are being concocted all around the Arab nation. At this time, the plotters are massing their forces to pounce on our Arab nation. At this time, the Camp David trio is moving here and there under various slogans and various names. The Camp David trio is now assuming various forms. However, the most splendid aspect of this time and decade is that the Lebanese fighter is joining forces with his brother, the Palestinian fighter. Together, they keep 'Abd an-Nasir in mind as they fight on the frontline; namely, in southern Lebanon. They are making history, a civilization and a future for their Arab nation. They are telling this country, this nation and this world that this land is Arab, Arab, Arab, and Arab! [applause]

Brothers, the decision we have made is not merely one of ink on paper. When the Joint Command took the decision to fight and fight until victory, that decision was not (a usual) and comprehensive) one. However, as I have said, we are not only defending ourselves, our generations are defending the dignity of the Arab nation. I tell 'Abd an-Nasir: O 'Abd an-Nasir, sleep peacefully because there is protection by the Lebanese rifle and the Palestinian rifle embraces this Lebanese rifle.

Brothers, it remains for me to mention one thing amid this welter of events; namely, the present events in the area. Brothers, what is now happening in the area--not only in the Arab arena but also in the Middle East--is not just something usual. No. What is occurring in the Arab and Middle East areas is the revolutionary change of which I have previously spoken at the beginning of the year. This is the revolutionary change, the revolutionary union. As I told the students a few days ago, I absolutely cannot understand As-Sadat's zeal for Islam in Afghanistan, while at the same time he opposes Islam and the believing revolutionary Muslims in Iran. I cannot understand this zeal, absolutely not! I absolutely cannot understand his stand against the revolutionary Muslims in Iran and against the revolutionary Christians and Muslims in Palestine, while he laments the fate of Islam in Afghanistan. [passage indistinct]

I want to state that this Lebanese-Palestinian armed alliance [words indistinct] that is, I understand the plot as well as its objectives.

Some of our brothers might say: This is a dark age. It might be a dark age for some of those self-styled Arab leaders. However, this is the age of the masses, the revolutionaries and the free men of our Arab nation. This is the age of the believers, offers of blood and painful labor, preceding that great birth of our Arab nation, the birth of 'Abd an-Nasir's nation! [applause]

Therefore, brothers, I say: Our pledge remains unchanged. Our pledge remains unchanged. O 'Abd an-Nasir, the pledge remains unchanged. The revolution remains unchanged. The decision remains unchanged and the oath remains the oath. We will all be together until victory, until victory, until victory!

BAHRAIN

AMIR RECEIVES LETTER FROM PDRY PRESIDENT

NC160840 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0750 GMT 16 Jan 80 NC

[Text] Manama, 16 January--His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of the state of Bahrain, has received a letter from 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, the chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council in the PDRY, connected with the latest developments in the Arab arena and the dangers threatening the Arab nation.

The letter also deals with developments in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf area and with ways of mobilizing the efforts to confront the dangers, as well as with the relations between the governments of Manama and Aden. PDRY Deputy Foreign Minister 'Abduh 'Ali 'Abd ar-Rahman delivered the letter when he was received by the amir of Bahrain today in the presence of Shaykh 'Abd ar-Rahman ibn Faris Al Khalifah, the director of the administrative, financial and consular affairs at the Foreign Ministry in Bahrain.

'Abduh 'Ali 'Abd ar-Rahman arrived in Manama from Doha yesterday as part of a tour of some states in the area to deliver similar letters to the leaders of these states.

KUWAIT

MINISTER 'OPTIMISTIC' AT EFFORTS TO RECONCILE PDRY, OMAN

LD161031 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0720 GMT 16 Jan 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait--Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn has warned against the danger of the continuing build-up of the major powers' naval military presence in the waters of the Gulf and the regions close by. In an interview with AS-SIYASAH he stated that any disturbance in security would not only place the Gulf states in a difficult position but would also bring the major powers to the brink of an extremely serious situation.

Husayn stressed that the Gulf countries "are in agreement" that the responsibility for security is borne by them alone without any need for any assistance from an outside force.

Referring to the Iranian-American crisis, he advocated settlement of disputes between the countries of the region and the major powers "within the framework of direct and serious dialog without threats to the region's security and without the need for the presence of fleets." The minister of state said Kuwait is against imposing sanctions against Iran for the holding of American hostages in Tehran since last November. He expressed Kuwait's opposition to President Carter's decision to freeze Iranian deposits in American banks. The United States is leading the attempt to impose sanctions against Iran so as to force it to release the hostages held in the American Embassy. Husayn stated that such measures are a two-edged weapon "whose effect would be reflected in international relations and in cooperation among states and would have negative results which could widen the present differences."

He mentioned that Kuwait is still making efforts to reconcile the differences between South Yemen and the Sultanate of Oman--fundamental political differences which up till now have prevented the establishment of relations between the two neighboring countries in the south of the Arabian Peninsula.

The Kuwaiti minister expressed "his optimism" with the initial results of these efforts, which he said may open a new page in cooperation between the two sister countries.

He spoke about last week's visit of King Husayn of Jordan to Kuwait as part of his Gulf tour. He stated that discussions between King Husayn and the Kuwaiti leaders dealt with Arab and Islamic issues including the Palestine question and the crisis in Afghanistan. He added that the two sides were agreed on the need to coordinate standpoints between the two countries and among the Arab and Islamic countries in preparation for the conference of Islamic foreign ministers proposed to be held in Pakistan in 10 days time to discuss the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

GOVERNMENT APPROVES EXTENSION OF ARAB DETERRENT FORCE MANDATE

ID141326 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1210 GMT 14 Jan 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 14 January--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah today announced that his country has approved a 6-month extension of the term of the Arab deterrent force in Lebanon, which is due to expire later this month. Speaking to the press, Shaykh Sabah said Kuwait, which contributes to financing the Arab deterrent force, has sent a cable to the Arab League informing it of its approval.

Shaykh Sabah earlier today met with Hammadi as-Sayd, Arab League representative of the Arab follow-up committee for Lebanon, who conveyed to him a message from Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, who arrived in Kuwait from Baghdad last night. He will be leaving for Bahrain today on another stage of his Arab tour.

FRG'S LAMBSDORFF: TALKS WITH OFFICIALS 'EXTREMELY USEFUL'

ID111503 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1207 GMT 11 Jan 80 LD

[Excerpts] Kuwait--FRG Economics Minister Otto Graf Lambsdorff has ended his official visit to Kuwait during which he conducted financial, oil, economic and political talks. He left today for the United Arab Emirates.

Lambsdorff told KUNA that the talks he conducted with Kuwaiti officials were "thorough and extremely useful." The West German minister said he held political and economic talks with Kuwaiti officials on bilateral relations and ways of strengthening economic cooperation between them [words indistinct].

The minister said he discussed with Kuwaiti officials the international situation and particularly the situation in the Gulf region. He said their views coincided in their assessment of the situation in Iran and that agreement was reached to condemn the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Urges Mediation With Iran

ID111514 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1233 GMT 11 Jan 80 LD

[Excerpts] Kuwait--FRG Economics Minister Otto Graf Lambsdorff has warned the developing countries, including the oil exporting countries, to expect an increase in the prices of materials and manufactured goods which the advanced industrial states export to them as a result of the increase in oil prices.

In an interview with KUNA, Lambsdorff rejected proposals by the developing countries for the creation of a new international economic order which they presented at their conference in Tanzania. He described the proposal as incompatible with the freedom of the market.

Lambsdorff warned that the prices of commodities and manufactured goods which the West European countries export will increase as a result of increased oil prices which have had a negative effect on economic conditions in Western states and have created many problems for them.

He expressed his profound regret that OPEC was unable to reach a unified price for oil at its recent meeting in Caracas last December.

Speaking about the events in Iran and Afghanistan, Lambsdorff said that they have created political anxiety and an atmosphere of instability, tension and crises that are reflected in world economic conditions. The FRG minister voiced his belief that these events will have an adverse effect on the future development of the world economy and that this will hinder investments and lead to an increase in the smuggling of funds abroad.

Lambsdorff urged the Islamic states to mediate with their friends in Tehran for the release of the hostages detained at the U.S. Embassy and said that his country would welcome such mediation. He added that success here could help in finding a clear and tangible reaction to the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan by the entire group of Islamic states.

Lambsdorff said, we cannot overlook this action by the Soviet Union, particularly since it constitutes interference against a state which is a member of the nonalined movement--a movement which has close links with the Gulf states.

As to the North-South dialog Lambsdorff said his government considers such a dialog to be necessary and urgent and that it will always endeavor to participate in it.

OMAN

MINISTRY OFFICIAL GIVES VIEWS ON PDRY, ARAB AFFAIRS

JN121055 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0905 GMT 12 Jan 80 JN

[Text] Muscat, 12 January--Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, under secretary of the Omani Foreign Ministry, has stated that the meeting between Omani Deputy Prime Minister Fahd ibn Mahmud Ali Bu Sa'id and PDRY President 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il which was held on the sidelines of the 10th Arab summit conference in Tunis, was not prepared in advance.

'Abdallah added: During that meeting, which was attended by YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il expressed the PDRY's readiness to resume relations with the Sultanate of Oman. President Salih expressed his country's readiness to host a meeting between officials of Oman and the PDRY.

'Abdallah said: Such talk has to be demonstrated in practise because we have been listening to such talk by PDRY officials for the last 5 years. He added: The PDRY has officially asked Kuwait to mediate between Oman and the PDRY, and the PDRY rejects the YAR's mediation. The Kuwaiti foreign minister informed us of this offer.

In an exclusive interview with the newspaper OMAN TODAY, the Omani under secretary said his country agrees to an improvement of relations with the PDRY on condition the latter respects each country's territorial integrity, does not intervene in Oman's internal affairs and suspends its information campaigns and support for the rebels.

'Abdallah said his country will attend the Gulf countries' foreign ministers conference in At-Ta'if.

On Oman's relations with Egypt, 'Abdallah said: This relationship will continue as it is and I do not expect any changes to occur.

'Abdallah reiterated his country's stand on the Middle East issue based on an Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories it occupied in 1967; the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to determine their fate on their soil; and the return of East Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty.

Asked about the position Oman would adopt if Egypt and Israel normalize their relations, 'Abdallah said: Normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel has been agreed from the beginning in the peace treaties. Therefore, normalization of relations will not change anything in the course of the negotiations.

On Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, 'Abdallah said: This intervention undoubtedly poses a threat to peace and security and is unacceptable. It is a precedent, which if not checked, will move the world out of the stage of detente.

'Abdallah compared the Soviet invasion to the Tatar's invasion and reiterated Oman's denunciation of this invasion. He said: We, our Arab and Muslim brothers and friends, are trying to insure that it will not continue. Oman and its sister states in the area are cooperating among themselves to discuss the situation in Afghanistan. 'Abdallah expressed his country's support for convening a conference of Islamic countries at any level.

On the PDRY's support for the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, 'Abdallah said: Once again the PDRY has shown that it is a Soviet satellite and part of its plans and that it cannot deviate from Soviet policy. 'Abdallah added: PDRY support for this intervention shows that it has no connections at all with the Islamic world.

Concerning his forecast of how the Iranian-U.S. crisis would end, the Omani under secretary said: The problem is a difficult and intricate one. It is very difficult to foresee how it will end. However, we believe that diplomatic efforts could still be of use, and we hope that it will be solved in a peaceful manner. We must not give other countries excuses to foment troubles and create a state of instability in the area.

'Abdallah expressed Oman's readiness to exert all efforts to settle this problem if asked to do so.

In reply to a question about President as-Sadat's readiness to provide the United States with facilities for the protection of the Gulf states, 'Abdallah said: Personally, I cannot decide or speak about this, but I can say that the Gulf states are capable of turning away any danger to their territories at the present time.

'Abdallah added: As-Sadat's offer of facilities was perhaps meant in case the Soviet invasion extends to other parts. If the Russians succeed in reaching the Gulf of Oman, then the countries in the area would have no alternative but to seek assistance not only from Egypt but from the entire world.

PDRY

LEBANESE PAPER REPORTS FIGHTING BETWEEN ARMY, TRIBESMEN

NC151233 Paris AFP in English 1143 GMT 15 Jan 80 NC

[Text] Beirut, Jan. 15 (AFP)--Fighting between the South Yemen Army and the tribesmen has left 37 people dead and 125 wounded, the Lebanese paper THE ARAB WORLD said today.

Citing travellers from Aden, THE ARAB WORLD said the clashes were prompted by the murder of an Egyptian teacher by Bakil tribesmen. South Yemeni authorities had made no announcement of such fighting.

The Lebanese paper said South Yemeni planes and armored vehicles attacked and destroyed the village of Bana Wadi where the presumed assassins had dug in after refusing to surrender. The fighting left 25 tribesmen dead and 100 wounded and an ambush by tribesmen killed 12 Yemeni soldiers and left 25 wounded, it was reported.

THE ARAB WORLD said tension was high in the region, the tribes refusing to negotiate with the government unless it delegated Vice-Prime Minister for Internal Affairs Mujahid Abu Shawarib who is out of the country for "health reasons."

The paper also noted that a split has appeared among South Yemeni leaders following the conclusion of a friendship-cooperation treaty with the Soviet Union. Mr. Abu Shawarib opposed such a treaty.

ISMA'IL ADDRESSES ARMED FORCES IN SIXTH GOVERNORATE

LD151600 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Jan 80 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, met officers and other ranks of the armed forces in the Sixth Governorate this morning. Addressing them, he expressed pleasure at meeting them and greeted them on behalf of the Central Committee and its Political Bureau.

The secretary general spoke about the most prominent issues of interest to our soldiers: revolution and the Yemeni homeland. He said: We cannot speak about the revolution's gains and achievements and the homeland's independence without mentioning the role of our armed forces and military establishment. We regard you as the symbol of the first steadfast front to defend the Yemeni revolution against the conspiracies of the imperialist powers, he told the soldiers. He stressed that the military task entrusted to our soldiers was a noble one and a duty for every citizen who loved his homeland and people. He called on them to work harder and make greater efforts to enable us to raise the standard of the fighting effectiveness of our military establishments to a higher level than ever before, and to strengthen military knowledge and military discipline.

He said: Increased military knowledge and a comprehensive understanding of it, of armaments and the modernization of weapons and strict discipline will enhance our military capabilities and improve our effectiveness, and accordingly we shall be able to defeat our enemies.

SAUDI ARABIA

CROWN PRINCE FAHD GRANTS INTERVIEW TO AS-SAFIR

NC121040 Beirut AS-SAFIR in Arabic 9 Jan 80 pp 8-10 NC

[Saudi Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz interview with Talal Salman, chief editor of AS-SAFIR, in Riyadh "last week". Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic at 1130 GMT on 13 January broadcasts the 55-minute announcer-read "text" of this interview. The portions of this interview enclosed in double slantlines are omitted by the Riyadh Radio version.]

[Text] Talal Salman writes: It was night. Riyadh was an island of light and silence in the heart of the eternal desert. The house was more or less ordinary, like a middle class house, not breathtakingly luxurious or big. The watch on the house did not draw attention, although there was a guard post at the entrance. Some of the guards wore military uniforms and others wore the traditional cloak. There was only one guard who was hardly walking inside the wall.

Major Sa'd of the special security forces, received us with friendly apologies saying: "His highness is late because of an urgent appointment but he is on his way now. Please come in."

Prince Fahd then came in and surprised us with embraces and apologies for being late. He led us from the hall to the office and we immediately embarked on a lengthy dialog. It was quite clear from the beginning that he had prepared himself for the interview and had decided what he wanted to say and convey in this interview.

He began talking to us as if we were old friends with whom he was resuming his talk after a sudden interruption. His first words were about Riyadh, its cold spell which, the meteorological center said, was the result of a cold depression over Sinai. And so the ghost of As-Sadat emerged through astronomy and geography from the first moments of the interview and it stayed in the closed room until the end.

Prince Fand spoke in what was more like a monolog about As-Sadat and the bitter experience with him. We looked at this broad-shouldered, heavy man. He looked serious except when he laughed. When he laughed he looked 10 years younger and his face was full of youth. His Arab features shone through the royal posture: big black eyes, strong nose, wide face and small well trimmed beard covering his round chin. His lined cloak covered his full body. He wore a violet ring and a golden watch with a violet plate. He carried a small violet rosary. His kufiyah [Arab headgear] was dotted red topped by a simple black 'ugal [headband]. There was nothing in the man's appearance or attire to distinguish him except his eyes which glimmered every now and then with a new idea or explanation or affirmation--and an air of tranquillity and clear reassurance and readiness for the future and a big role in it.

One got the impression that Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz was addressing the future more than the present, or that he was preparing himself for what is yet to come, sure of his ability to adapt the present to his wishes and ambitions.

He began the conversation in a relatively defensive tone which continued throughout his talk about As-Sadat. He explained the reason himself: "For a while, everyone thought--and it was their right to think--that As-Sadat did what he did in agreement or in collusion with us. His relations with us were indeed excellent and the cooperation between us was unlimited. He exploited this fact to give people the impression that we approved of his visit to Jerusalem and of what followed of his ill-omened initiative."

As'ad al-Muqaddam [presumably a member of AS-SAFIR staff] said inquiring: This is despite the fact that, according to Prince Salman, he had given you a definite promise that he would not accept anything short of a return to the 1967 borders.

Prince Fahd sat up straight in his seat. Then he began relating, with detailed precision, the proceedings of the last meetings held with As-Sadat. Prince Fahd said:

That is correct. This thing happened. It happened in the presence of his foreign minister--at that time Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil--and our foreign minister, Prince Salman, and some Egyptian officials who were present. I addressed the question to President as-Sadat. I said: Talk is rife among the Arab nation's leaders, its intellectuals, its opinion makers and in its press to the effect that certain efforts are being exerted to achieve unilateral peace with Israel. Naturally, such news is worrisome. However, we have tried not to get it fixed in our minds until we find out the truth about it. Therefore, I have not tried to believe such news until asking you about it.

"And As-Sadat told me: How can you believe such news? Rest assured that nothing of this kind will come to pass. These are unfounded reports and they cannot materialize. Had we sought such a thing, it would have been possible for us to achieve it even in 'Abd an-Nasir's days. To prove to you that this talk is untrue, I will tell you about a recent occurrence. Atherton (at that time a U.S. State Department undersecretary) is now visiting with me. Atherton is trying to convene a meeting in any part of Sinai among the foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel and the U.S. secretary of state. I have categorically rejected this idea to avoid having certain people explain it as a slant on our part and as proving that we are seeking a separate peace with Israel."

I said: "Your Excellency, Mr President: I have come to you because we are interested in Egypt and because the Arab nation is as interested in the Egyptian people as it is also interested in the Egyptian Army, which now has considerable experience due to waging three wars. Briefly stated, we are interested in the Egyptian nation--and its fate and future concerns which affect us. Furthermore, it is impossible for us to pretend to forget or to disregard the Egyptian nation."

As-Sadat said: "And I emphasize to you that such a thing is out of the question under all circumstances. The Geneva conference lies ahead of us and we will continue to forge ahead toward Geneva. Apart from this, there is nothing else."

I said: "I will be traveling to Jordan, Syria and Iraq and our brothers there are interested in learning the facts. Now that I am reassured, I am in a position to convey to them what I have just heard from you."

Prince Fahd said: I then indeed traveled to Jordan and then to Damascus and Baghdad. I explained the matter to King Husayn, President al-Asad, brother Yasir 'Arafat and President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr--and they were all glad to hear a categorical denial, coming directly from As-Sadat, of the news about a separate peace. And I told them, as an affirmation and an afterthought: "In any case, this is what I have heard from President as-Sadat personally. I had men with me who attended the meeting and who heard what was said--and they included Saudis and Egyptians. However, I am unable to guarantee that this position will continue." ...[all ellipses as published] I then returned to Riyadh and briefed King Khalid and the government on the results of my trip.

Continuing to narrate the events which preceded the visit to occupied Jerusalem, Prince Fahd said:

After a period, which I cannot fix precisely, President as-Sadat went to Iran. When he flew from Tehran, we received a communication that he was coming to visit us. We spoke in detail about the situation in the area and potential developments. The discussion centered on the Geneva conference. As-Sadat told us that he would attend this conference regardless of who else attended. It was our opinion that it would be better and more useful to secure a meeting of the states which are associated with UN Resolution 242. "Incidentally, the kingdom has no connection with this resolution." It was also our opinion that the Palestinians should be given the freedom to decide what was appropriate for them.

Prince Fahd went on: You will remember the controversy at that time about the Arab attendance and whether the Arabs should attend as one delegation or four delegations. Our discussion with As-Sadat ended here. He made no mention at all of his visit to Jerusalem. Such a visit, naturally, was unlikely and inconceivable. It remained unlikely even after As-Sadat delivered his famous speech at the People's Assembly "in the presence of Yasir 'Arafat, who knew nothing about the matter." In this speech, As-Sadat said he was prepared to visit Jerusalem. We interpreted this remark, as others did, as an exaggeration or as a maneuver aimed at causing embarrassment. As-Sadat then visited Damascus. I believe he discussed the matter with President al-Asad, who rejected the idea. Speaking at Damascus airport, As-Sadat said that the Syrian president had told him that he rejected and opposed the idea. Matters became very clear then. The kingdom sent a message to President as-Sadat on the morning of the day he was due to go to Jerusalem. In this message, the kingdom tried to dissuade As-Sadat from going ahead with his plan because his action was illogical and unreasonable. As-Sadat never answered us. The kingdom announced its known official position on the visit that evening. It was necessary that we should declare our position because many Arab leaders, intellectuals and influential persons believed that the kingdom knew in advance what was happening. As-Sadat came to the kingdom from Iran and then left for Egypt and immediately embarked on his s' Our relationship with him was very good at the time. It was logical that some people should assume that Saudi Arabia was aware of As-Sadat's intentions regardless whether it approved or disapproved of them.

We started to ask a question but Prince Fahd's frantic talking deprived us of the opportunity. Continuing to talk, we heard him saying: It was some time before the people could grasp the truth of what happened and before they were content that we had no connection with the issue. Our practical and real position is what we announced the moment after the visit began. I believe that many people hoped that As-Sadat's step would achieve the Arabs' demands--Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, the West Bank including Jerusalem, Golan and Sinai. Had any of this been achieved, the matter could have been explained as an initiative by As-Sadat, who wanted to have the glory of formulating a solution and establishing peace. There is nothing wrong with this. What is important is that the Arab demands be realized. It is not important whether we or others or whether this or that state or this or that group achieve them. However, matters ended the way we see them now. No Arab or Muslim in the world has accepted or approved of what has been done. Everything has ended. We now hear daily statements by the leaders of Israel reiterating that they refuse to even discuss these demands. This wretched outcome could have been anticipated from the beginning. When As-Sadat expressed his desire to visit Jerusalem, Begin said something to the effect: "If he is coming to regain the West Bank or Gaza, then it is better that he should not come." I believe that Begin reiterated this at his second meeting with As-Sadat in Ismailia.

Fahd was silent for a moment and then he added with a little sigh: "As-Sadat defined the Arabs' demands in the Israeli Knesset. I wish he continued to adhere to them. Had he done so, nobody would have said anything."

Fahd then transferred his string of beads from his right to his left hand, took out a pack of cigarettes and a lighter and lit a cigarette. He then continued saying:

Let us ponder the situation now, which is well known. As-Sadat's step has led Egypt and the Arab nation nowhere. It has not even led to the implementation of Resolution 242, which was approved, as I recall, by Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Israel and the Security Council members. This resolution is no longer a subject of discussion. Israel refuses to even discuss this resolution.

As'ad al-Muqaddam commented: It is now busy building more settlements and colonies.

[Fahd continues] True. The present situation will change only if there is an Arab agreement and a unified Arab position in the [Arab] east and west and if circumstances are provided to develop coordination gradually, settle or contain the peripheral disagreements and achieve a comprehensive Arab agreement. Only then will it be possible to achieve a very good result.

Prince Fahd went on to define the axes of his move or what could be considered as his "political" program. He said:

I am one of those who believe in the right of each Arab state to have a free hand in conducting its domestic affairs. This is an issue between the state and its people. The government, the head of state and the people decide what is good for them and what they want on all levels. No Arab state has the right to interfere in the domestic affairs of another state. As Arabs and as officials, we are naturally entitled to secure common support for the external framework and for the joint political, economic, military and social interests. There is no Arab leader who does not advocate this. What is important is that we achieve such a result.

I say: We must achieve such a result and I do not believe this will take long. It is true that there are differences among some Arab states now but we must bow down and tackle these differences. We must solve them. We must continue to knock at doors and to exert good efforts. It is essential that the relations among the Arab nation's leaders should be maintained and not severed. We do not believe that we shall fail to find the proper and appropriate solution.

Once again he paused for a moment and then added: There is no doubt that each Arab state wants to feel assured about the attitude of the other states. This can only be achieved if good intentions prevail and if appropriate conditions are provided. It might be necessary for each party to pledge not to interfere in the domestic affairs of the other party. We must not forget that the prevailing Arab conditions reflect directly on the Palestinian people. They are naturally a part of the Arab nation and one of its causes. I am one of those who say that it is not possible to blame the Palestinian people when we find them suffering or living in a state of disagreement in opinion. Each organization has its own views on certain issues. In the absence of a great Arab framework organizing all, including the Palestinian people, such a state of affairs would logically continue.

Prince Fahd then turned to the second point in his program without giving us an opportunity to comment or ask questions.

He said: The Baghdad conference has undoubtedly succeeded in defining some bases and specific matters. It has paved the way for a meeting among the leaders of the Arab countries. The same applies to the Tunis conference. The conferees did not achieve everything we wanted but the efforts are continuing. What gladdens the heart is that there is no Arab leader who has not expressed a sincere desire for the achievement of an Arab agreement. It is our opinion that such a desire must not be confined to the leaders of the Arab nation alone but must also include influential people and intellectuals so that they may knock on all doors. Why should there be no comprehensive agreement, particularly after the assertion that the internal rules or the internal organizations will be respected? We cannot imagine that there is one Arab ruler who wants to harm his homeland. By virtue of the fact that we, the Arabs, are still in the stage of development, let us search together for rules which we would follow in our internal organizations. Certain methods which proved to be unbeneficial and unconstructive might have been tried. Let us try other methods.

Prince Fahd then explained his hints in clearer, more specific words. He said: When the ruler or the parliamentary councils or command councils rest assured that nothing will be imposed on them from abroad and that nobody will try to create domestic problems, then we will achieve the ultimate result of an Arab rallying that would fulfill the interests of everyone. In the absence of such rallying, our international stands will not achieve the desired results.

Emphasizing another point in his program, Fahd said: I am one of those who say that our friendships in the world, East and West, must remain within limits, and must not go beyond the limits of our own interests. We must not give the East or the West facilities harmful to the Arab country concerned or to any other Arab country. Our relations with the states of the world are dictated by our interests. We cannot isolate ourselves from the world, particularly since we are still in the early stages of development and organization. Friendship, however, must be within the limits of our national interests. This should not be restricted to the East or the West. I extend my hand to and welcome any state that extends its hands to help me in a way that would not encroach upon my freedom and independence. This is because I cannot do without such help, anyway. We have not yet reached the stage of self-sufficiency. Even the states which have achieved progress cooperate among themselves and extend their hands to one another. Sometimes we hear someone saying: Let us avoid a certain state and let us not establish relations or long term friendship and let us not take upon ourselves any economic military or political commitments except within the limits of our interests. I do not think there is anyone who cannot appreciate his own interests. Of course, it happens sometimes that one side would, because of a grudge and the desire to defame, try to undermine the reputation of another side by accusing it of being a friend of one state or another, be it the Soviet Union, the United States or France. Such campaigns are familiar. In them, side doors are used and the aim is to annoy, no more. As far as I am concerned, I do not believe that there is one single Arab state that really wishes to throw itself into the lap of imperialism, whether Eastern or Western imperialism. We are still not very distant from the era of imperialism. Most Arab states got their independence only a few years ago. The French, Italians and British have only just left our Arab territory. I do not suppose that there is one Arab people now wishing to have links of an imperialist nature with the East or the West. It remains for us to seek and work for Arab solidarity and for the elimination of the differences, reservations and mutual fears in order to achieve the desired objective.

He lit a new cigarette and continued to explain his political program. He said: If it were not for our state of affairs Israel could not have possibly scored victory. We Arabs number 120 million. We have the manpower and the funds. We have the men and we have the potential. Furthermore, our main and basic issue, the cause of the Palestinian people, is no longer disregarded or unknown. It is now an internationally known cause and the popular ranks in any country in the world realize that this is a fundamental issue and that there can be no solution unless the Palestinian people get their full undiminished rights.

To emphasize his point, Prince Fahd related a specific event. He said: You recall that about 1 year ago, I visited West Germany. Chancellor Schmidt then said at the airport--for the first time and in front of the reporters and myself--that there can be no stability unless the peoples of the world recognize the right of the Palestinian people to an independent state. All conferences held in Europe these days, even the conferences not related to the Arabs, speak of the Palestinian people's rights and the need to recognize these rights. Even in the United States, there are leaders now who are trying to achieve success in leading their parties or in reaching the U.S. presidency on the basis of the Arab and Palestinian rights. There are economists and experts who are now trying to convince the American people that the Palestinian people's rights and the Arab nation's rights cannot be ignored.

Prince Fahd asked: But how can we adopt an integrated Arab stand unless Arab solidarity is achieved? We might hear someone saying: Israel musters enormous military potential. This is true. However, it is also true that it is possible for us, Arabs, to have huge military capabilities over and above those possessed by Israel for the reasons I have listed (money, manpower and weapons). It is possible for us to gather so much strength that we will be able to achieve our rights and our just and equitable demands.

Prince Fahd paused for a while to ponder the importance of information during this phase through which we are passing (another point in the program). He said: Naturally, under the aegis of the coming Arab solidarity the world will view us differently, and the world's respect for us will increase. Even in the information domain, we will play a major role in the United States, Europe and throughout the world--and particularly in Asia and Africa. It is possible for us to have enough scope to prominently get across our inalienable right, which the Zionist media are trying to obliterate by well-known methods and through the tremendous information capabilities at their disposal. It is imperative for us to admit that we have failed in this respect, particularly since in our century information plays a role superior to the effect of arms. This is because man is convinced by reasoning and he must recognize facts when these are placed right before his eyes. However, if man is prevented from learning the facts about the Arabs, he will continue to maintain the conviction, which has been falsely planted in his mind, that Israel is the victim of injustice and that the Arabs want to swallow it up.

While we were following him and waiting for an opportunity to question him, Prince Fahd moved on to another point. He said: For instance, at the Tunis summit conference, and through this conference, it became apparent that we ultimately had an Arab League and an Arab League secretary. It became apparent that we indeed had an Arab League which can confront events and a secretary general who can rise to situations. It is impossible for us not to say that he lives up to events. Definitely, the Arab League is now different from what it was a few months ago. Efforts are underway to develop the league's organs and to enable it to perform its role within the proper framework.

Fahd again emphasized his cherished slogan "Arab Solidarity." He said: However, all these things have no value and carry no weight unless Arab solidarity is achieved. We hope there will be more meetings, both summit and bilateral meetings. We are confident that such an orientation will inevitably yield results. Why? Because when you ask any Arab leader about his problem, you find that it is a limited problem amenable to a solution. Furthermore, I believe that continuing meetings among the Arab leaders, within a specific framework and at regular intervals, helps achieve the desired results. I believe the Arab peoples have suffered enough and that they are tired of the present state of affairs. As far as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is concerned, we will exert our utmost efforts to fulfill this objective. We are fortunate that we have good relations with all Arab states and that our role is not impaired by any misunderstanding or dispute with any Arab side. We will continue to contact our brothers in the Arab countries at the highest levels. Naturally, this is not our duty alone, but the duty of all. Furthermore, it is impossible for the kingdom to claim that its individual efforts will have the required value, but the joint Arab efforts are valuable.

Prince Fahd ended his "monolog" or his "program" with a special reference to Lebanon which made us feel as though we were about to issue a joint statement on the discussions. He said:

In view of our known friendship with Lebanon, it naturally saddens us to see conditions in Lebanon remain unchanged. We would be glad if appropriate solutions were found to the problems of the Lebanese people and if Israel were deterred from continuing its attacks and creating problems inside Lebanon. I do not intend and I cannot say more about Lebanon. Matters are very clear and there is no ambiguity and there are no hidden aspects. I do not believe there is one single Arab who does not want to see peace and stability established in Lebanon and who does not wish to see an end to these problems which were created despite the will of the Lebanese people. It is natural for a strong and violent current sweeping a country to find those who will nurture this and open gaps for this current to nest and survive as a diseased germ in the body of man, moving from one part to another. However, this does not, under any circumstances, prevent the exertion and continuation of good efforts by our Arab nation to tackle the situation in Lebanon. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is in constant contact with others and is always trying its best in the hope that we may, perhaps, render some service to the Lebanese people within the framework of the national interests. It is a fact that there is not one Lebanese who does not want an end to this state of affairs. We hope, God willing, to succeed in serving the interests of Lebanon.

It was only at this point that it became possible to start a discussion or a dialog with the Saudi crown prince. It was necessary to fall back on his long monolog, which included a detailed explanation of the course of the kingdom and its broad political line.

//According to the custom with kings, we asked him for immunity from punishment to start "the discord" [ash-shaghab]. We said:

//Let us return to the famous event--As-Sadat's visit and what followed. There are two sides to the issue: As-Sadat and his contact or lack of contact with you and the U.S. side. By virture of the special relationship, (he interrupted us here to say: Our relationship with the United States is good) and by virtue of the noticeable coordination between you and it at times, didn't Washington contact you at the time for the purpose of consultation, coordination or mere communication?

//Moreover, was it not actually possible to prevent As-Sadat from carrying out his visit or stopping him at a certain limit, even if he went? The ordinary citizen believes it would have been possible to prevent them from committing an act of high treason within the sight and hearing of all.

//Prince Fahd answered: True, true, by God, this is true.

//We said: It is the citizen's opinion that it would have been possible to prevent the event from taking place. What has happened is that everybody, like the ordinary citizen himself, sat down in front of the television set to watch As-Sadat. They did not exert enough effort to stop him at a certan limit in any way or method. This is a responsibility which all shoulder.

//Prince Fahd agreed with us by shaking his head and saying: Of course, of course.

//We then completed what we wanted to say: As-Sadat went to Jerusalem and then he continued to implement his plan. The Arabs sat watching the television, they confined their struggle to pouring curses on him or to issuing statements of condemnation and denunciation. He was acting and the other leaders were content with pallid, superficial reactions at a time when the Arab masses were repressed and prevented from acting and expressing their opposition and opinion. Demonstrations were only staged in the occupied territory (that is to say under the bayonets of the Israeli enemy), in Cyprus (may God increase the goodness of our Greek friends) and in Beirut. These demonstrations were staged after consultations, contacts and assurances that permits to demonstrate would be granted.

//Agreeing with what we said, Prince Fahd said: This is true, true of course, by God it is true.

//We asked: How can we describe As-Sadat's conduct? Is this not high treason according to all international norms?

//Prince Fahd said: Yes, yes.

//Can it be called anything else?

//He said: Never.

//We said: His action has harmed the entire Arab nation and every citizen in it, inside and outside Egypt. He has distorted our history and brought shame on all of us. My question is: Vis-a-vis what As-Sadat has done, which is grave and terrible, why has the Arab reaction been so weak and ineffective? Why was it not on the level of his action? Why has it been and why is it still limited and not on a par with the destructive effects of the action itself? We believe that Saudi Arabia, with its huge capabilities and international friendships, could have played a more effective role; why did it not play such a role in full?

//With the same calm Prince Fahd said: We, naturally, cannot carry out any Arab action unless there is Arab unanimity. However, from the standpoint of our links with the United States, we were in contact with it as much as possible. However, when As-Sadat carried out that step, Iraq hastened to contact the Arab countries in order to convene a meeting that would define the steps which must be taken against what As-Sadat had done. The steps which were approved were fully implemented. I must mention that the Saudi Arabian Kingdom did not oppose any measure being taken under any circumstances. The conference unanimously approved everything that the Arab states had proposed and these proposals are being implemented. However, the question continues to be posed to Saudi Arabia, naturally, and to all the others. We must admit that everything is not in our hands.

//As-Sadat, as you have said, is continuing along his specific line and he is continuing his steps unceasingly. What are the steps that can still be taken to stop him? In my view, the leaders of the Arab states must meet, discuss and take the measures they deem necessary and which will confront or match his continuous steps. This means, in any case, that the Baghdad resolutions were not positive. We believe that what was adopted at the Baghdad summit, particularly regarding boycotting Egypt, had a great effect in Egypt and achieved the objective. However, if other steps are necessary we will support such steps.

//We asked Prince Fahd: Why do you yourselves not hasten? Why do you wait, as is your custom, for the others? Why do you not propose a number of steps when you can exert unlimited pressure on more than one level?

//The Saudi crown prince said: This can happen at the forthcoming summit conference or at any meeting. On this occasion, the Arab conditions, in my view, require continuous treatment. It can be useful not to go a whole year without meeting. Possibly we could advance the date of the scheduled periodic summit. We believe that the leaders of the Arab nation should meet continuously to discuss these matters. I assure you that the Saudi Arabian Kingdom will not hesitate in any case if the Arab states take any positive step.

//In your own view, what are the required positive steps?

//Prince Fahd said: I have said that the measures which were approved at the Baghdad conference had a direct positive effect. They did not achieve the desired objective one hundred percent but were effective. Are more effective measures necessary? Well, we should meet, discuss the matter, study the nature of the more effective steps that are required and present a reaction that will be closer to the nature of the action.

//We found out it would be more useful to turn the discussion to another point. We said:

//When you spoke about the Geneva conference and Resolution 242, we noticed a dissimilarit [mufaraqah], which made us ponder; you said you were not concerned with Resolution 242. You also said something to the effect that you sought the convocation of the Geneva conference, bearing in mind that it would have been based on Resolution 242.

//Prince Fahd said quickly, as though he had prepared his answer in advance: We were not concerned with Resolution 242. But, as I said, we support what the Arab states accept. The same thing applies to the Geneva issue. Syria, Egypt and Jordan have approved Resolution 242. As far as I know, the Palestinian people supported the Geneva conference. As far as we remember, the discussions then revolved around the question: Would the Palestinian people be invited as part of one of the Arab state's delegations, or would it be invited as an independent delegation? As far as we were concerned, we did not oppose the Geneva conference because we could not object to what the others, including the Palestinian people, accepted. It is known that the Arab states that approved Resolution 242 considered the Geneva conference to be a possible positive and practical step that would be better than any other step. There was a disagreement, as you will recall, on the "form" of the Arab presence: would four Arab delegations attend, or would one unified delegation attend? The discussions continued until As-Sadat's visit, which turned the Geneva conference into an insignificant issue. Incidentally, wouldn't the Geneva conference have been a thousand times better than As-Sadat's step? The prevailing opinion then was that if the conference did not achieve Arab progress, particularly on bringing the issue to the fore, we would lose nothing. We went on scrutinizing the old books and their incomplete information on this point.//

We asked Prince Fahd: It is known that you had a principal role in the attempt to amend Resolution 242 so that it would guarantee U.S. recognition of the PLO. Could we hear from you the full story of this event, which is being enacted in chapters.

Prince Fahd said with some vitality: This is true. Before I left for the United States after Carter's election as president, the brothers in the PLO agreed that I should carry with me a memorandum explaining the Palestinian people's view and the question of their right to return to their homeland. A detailed, clear and thick memorandum was actually prepared, and I was assigned to deliver it to President Carter. Indeed, I took the memorandum with me and handed it to the U.S. President. He accepted it good-naturedly. He showed no embarrassment and did not object to anything in it. Indeed, he told me verbatim: "It gives me pleasure to get acquainted with the question of the Palestinian people because of the fact that I am at the beginning of my term and my information is still incomplete. Regardless of how much I know about the question, this will not prevent me from becoming acquainted with it by the people directly concerned."

I met him again afterwards. He told me something to the effect that he was happy about having acquainted himself with the facts of the matter. This coincided with the parliamentary elections in Israel that brought Begin and his party to power. Here I must make a testimony for the sake of history. I testify that President Carter was the most displeased among those whom I met with the success of Begin and his party. His displeasure was obvious. And it even extended to some Jewish circles in the United States that, we might say, are attempting to maintain patterns of moderate thinking.

In any case, this is the truth about what took place between President Carter and myself (and all this is written and recorded in preserved documents) regarding the Palestinian question. The Saudi delegation tried to explain the Arab issue clearly and properly. It explained the rights of the Palestinian people. The U.S. delegation seemed to accept this explanation; it neither objected to it nor did it express any reservations. Moreover, it did not debate what we said. I was naturally pleased to see the U.S. President accepting this explanation with understanding. When I returned to my homeland, I met with the leaders of the Palestinian revolution, led by brother Yasir 'Arafat. I told them what had taken place, and I sensed that they were prepared to discuss things. We told them then that if they wanted us to exert any other efforts, we would be fully prepared to do so. We also told them that they could contact any of the other Arab leaders directly or indirectly if they wished. This is their business, and we do not want them or others to believe that we have a special desire that does not correspond with the Palestinian people's interests. We consider the Palestinian question to be the concern of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and of every Arab state or individual.

We asked him: Is it true that President Carter was prepared to recognize the PLO? What is the situation regarding amendment of Resolution 242?

Prince Fahd said firmly: President Carter told me that he was prepared, wanted and was determined to recognize the PLO if it recognized Resolution 242 after deletion of the last part of the resolution, which describes the Palestinians as refugees. He affirmed to me that if the PLO accepted the amended version of Resolution 242, the United States would recognize it.

Did Carter make PLO recognition of the state of Israel a condition?

Prince Fahd said in the same firm manner: No, no, never. The only condition he made was PLO approval of Resolution 242; he also said the part that describes the Palestinians as refugees should be deleted.

He said that as long as Egypt, Syria and Jordan recognized the resolution, it would be useful for the PLO, according to the Americans, to recognize Resolution 242, which frankly stipulates an Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, and to know that the British and the French differed in their interpretations of the original English text of the resolution. What is important is that I conveyed the report as I heard it from President Carter. What I noticed was that brother Yasir 'Arafat and the others accepted it and considered it a step forward because U.S. recognition of the PLO is an important matter, important because the United States is a major state and carries weight.

I say here and affirm that Saudi Arabia is not proposing anything now. The matter is entirely the concern of the leaders of the Palestinian people; they are concerned with approving or disapproving it. The Saudi Arabian Kingdom is with them. It accepts what they accept; what the Palestinian leaders and people reject, we will reject. This is our role in this area, and it ends at this point. I told our brothers at that time: If you want the kingdom to do anything, we will not hesitate. If you want to knock at any other door, that is your right, and we will not agree to anything that you yourselves do not agree to.

//We will not exert any pressure regarding any matter that is inconsistent with the Palestinian people's interests. We conveyed the message and then left the matter to our brothers, the leaders of the Palestinian people, and maybe they studied it. Perhaps after studying all aspects of the matter, they found that some questions were inconsistent with the Palestinian people's interests. I do not exactly understand this. These are my views... the matter stopped at this point. We will not return to it or ask that it be discussed so that it will not be interpreted that the kingdom has any specific stand or wish.

//Shouldn't a specific formula have been simultaneously announced by both sides?

//There was something about this, but it ended when our brothers, particularly brother Yasir 'Arafat, wanted to discuss the matter with his other brothers and colleagues. Our answer was that we were completely ready, if required, to carry out any additional efforts and if it was felt that the PLO should carry out any effort, it would be its right to do so. But we do not want either Saudi Arabia's stand to be misinterpreted for any reason whatsoever or a specific wish to be attributed to it, because our wish is their wish....//

We asked a direct question about "the Arab Carter": let us go back to Carter since he became president. He has made several contradictory statements on the Palestine question. He makes a statement and then goes back on it a few days later. Is that a result of pressure, or is it a deceptive game that Carter and the U.S. officials are playing with us?

Prince Fahd answered: In my view, things depend on the nature of the Arab reaction. As for Carter making first one statement and then another, it is his own business. But as Arabs, we must adopt specific stands and adhere to them. As a superpower, the United States has its own special stands and policies. As a matter of fact, we must not decide our affairs according to the wish of any country or leader. We must determine our future by ourselves and be committed to a specific framework. I am one of those who feel that if such a framework existed, things would have taken different directions.

//Do you recall the U.S.-Soviet statement? It was all right, not bad. Even our brother leaders of the Palestinian people supported it. Why didn't we make use of that statement? Why didn't we support it together if it would fulfill the Palestinian people's aspirations?

//--The Arabs in general supported it.

//--Well, they should have continued their support.

//--But the United States went back on it.

//--Even if the United States went back on it, we should have proceeded within that framework and demanded that course of action. However, it is the Arab developments that dictated that the statement be bypassed. Didn't As-Sadat's visit take place at that time?

//--But is it enough just for us to agree on and support the statement without a U.S. commitment, especially after the United States went back on the statement as a result of the well-known Israeli stand before As-Sadat made his visit.

//--The situation changed with the emergence of certain events, including As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. However, despite this, I maintain once again that things depend on us and on our leaders. Anyway, we must not despair because things are still in our hands. If we despair, it means that our question is facing liquidation. If we reject liquidation for our cause, it will not be liquidated.

//We reworded our question, saying: Allow us to talk with you a little. We agree with you that we are responsible for our indolence or relinquishment. Perhaps the main reason for this is the lack of a unified Arab stand. But it is well know that the problem lies with the United States, which can solve or exacerbate the question. Thus, since Saudi Arabia exerts the strongest pressure on the United States, why isn't it possible to make U.S.-Arab relations, particularly U.S.-Saudi relations, bear fruit--that is, make the United States comply with what its President and secretary of state have declared on more than one occasion?

//Prince Fahd said: You are right. We in the Saudi Arabian Kingdom and the Arab countries have a duty that we must not give up. I affirm to you that the kingdom always tries to do this. The kingdom knocks at the door of the United States perhaps more than any other country. But, as I have told you, it would be an exaggeration to say that the kingdom alone could achieve anything. If there were an overall Arab framework for exerting pressure--and this is not pressure, but a demand for a legitimate right--the Russians, the Americans, British, French or any state could not tell me that I have no right to this or that.

//But, may you long live, in the absence of power they can tell us no, a thousand times no.

//Prince Fahd said: However, what power? Moral power is very important, extremely important. In my opinion, the most important aspect of it is the information aspect, which we are lacking. You, as a responsible information man who realizes and understands the Arab questions, might have grey hair because of that, not because of your age. If we had acted well in the information field, our cause would have achieved further success. I would like to address the people, namely the American people, and not the U.S. government. I must address all people logically and understandably. If this can be achieved, we will have gained a lot. In America, you have at least 100,000 Arabs--I mean those who live there permanently--and about 500,000 Arabs travel to and from America (excluding the expatriates). If every Arab won the support of one or more American, that would be adequate along with the clubs, associations, the press and television.

//If things were organized, we would not fear the American people's stand. We must reveal the facts to them. We must tell them that as an American you are benefiting from me as an Arab to the tune of billions of dollars, while at the same time you are paying Israel billions. Don't you realize the difference?

//Every state in America benefits from the Arabs whether in buying and selling, in employment, in operating firms or in supplying products to the Arab states. Therefore, addressing people directly carries considerable weight. The people will make their governments yield to reality, logic, and reason. When you speak in a logical, acceptable way, no one dislikes listening to you. But you share with me the view that we are lacking an organized system in this field. A newspaper such as AS-SAFIR can achieve a great deal by circulating in America, where the Arabs and students would read it. However, a unilateral effort is inadequate...

//We interrupted Prince Fahd and told him: I beg your pardon, but we have not yet reached that level...

//I know, and I also know that your paper is read in Europe--London and Paris in particular, where it is widely read. Such an effort has its effect, so how about if there were an Arab effort at a very high level? The Arab League, as you know, has offices everywhere. In these offices you can hardly find two or three officials who are doing anything since matters are beyond their capability.

//[Question] I beg your pardon again, but don't make us shoulder your responsibility. Let us be clear and humble in this respect. A journalist could explain, interpret and give an idea or an opinion, but he is not party of the political leadership...strong information is that which relies upon a strong political position. If a strong political position is lacking, what is the use of the information?

//[Answer] This is correct.

//[Question] Give me a strong political stand and the information media will then play its role.

//[Answer] I fully agree with you. I am not holding our Arab press responsible for any shortcoming. I believe that our Arab press, whether they like it or not, is being widely read and taken as evidence of specific Arab stands, although the effort discussed was weak. How about if there was an Arab position at the level of events coupled with a strong Arab information media?

//[Question] I would like to interrupt you here to remind you of a specific incident. One day in the sixties, New York dock workers refused to unload an Arab ship named "Cleopatra." All the Arabs stood together as one man. Consequently the entire world took this stand into consideration. This is what I want to refer to. As a media man, I can raise my head and move with every strong political position. When As-Sadat went to the occupied territory, the Arabs watched him on television, but the reaction by the Arab rulers and their suppressed peoples did not match As-Sadat's action. What pretext would the information media have then? It would be very weak and deficient...

//[Answer] You are right.

//[Question] As a responsible official, it is demanded that you assume a stand, and I would support it according to my capability.

//[Answer] True. You will exert your efforts, but you would not be responsible. If the Arabs would support this effort, the benefits would be greater.

//Saudi Arabia and the Palestinian state.

//We tried to return to the first part of the discussion.

//Well, tell us frankly now: Will the Palestinian state be established? We have heard that the United States has informed Saudi Arabia that it opposes the establishment of a Palestinian state, at least in the foreseeable future.

//Prince Fahd spoke in a denouncing tone. No, no, never. Rest assured that Saudi Arabia will not accept the squandering of the Palestinian people's rights. We have received nothing from the United States in this respect.

//[Question] Do you personally see a possibility for the establishment of a Palestinian state?

//[Answer] Yes, I am convinced of this. The world, particularly Europe, is also convinced that stability cannot be achieved without a Palestinian state. I am also convinced that the thinking people in the United States support its establishment.

//[Question] Could you estimate how long it will take?

//[Answer] My estimate is that if an organized and concerted effort is made, a Palestinian state will inevitably be established and recognized by the world. Once again, I confirm that we have received nothing from the United States indicating that no Palestinian state will be established now or in the future.

//[Question] What is your opinion of this discrepancy? The Palestine question is strengthened or weakened according to whether the Arab stand is strong or weak. However, the Palestine question is now achieving victories in the international political arena although Arab weakness is increasing. Do you believe that this backing makes up for Arab support and the intrinsic Palestinian strength?

//[Answer] Saudi Arabia and I believe that the Palestinian people are not to blame if another tragedy befalls them. The Arab leaders, not the Palestinian people, shoulder the responsibility. The Arab leaders must face up to the events so that the Palestinian people can have a respite. The Arab leaders must give strong support to the Palestinian people because they cannot give up any of their rights. But if the Arab stand weakens, what will become of the Palestinian people's stand? The Palestinian people's strength is derived from the strength of the Arab framework.

//[Question] Certain people believe that a fearful thing is growing: A regional Palestinian feeling with the conviction that it is possible to achieve a Palestinian victory under the circumstances of Arab defeat.

//[Answer] Be assured that this feeling is wrong and can achieve nothing. This is what Israel is looking forward to. Israel is specifically looking forward to the eruption of internal Arab-Palestinian skirmishes. This would mean a total collapse for our cause for 10, 15 or 20 years. What would Israel do during such a period? It would continue to move the Arabs from the occupied land to the Arab countries and replace them with millions of Jews.

//As you know, Israel has considerable scientific capabilities and potential in all countries. It is waiting for the eruption of violent internal Arab conflicts so that our front would collapse and our Arab nation would pay the price. We, therefore, must find our mistakes. This is not shameful. We must say that these mistakes happened in this and that year. We must remember that nothing is respected in the world now except strength--not only military power, but also moral, intellectual and cohesive power. So-called love and sympathy do not exist among states. There are interests. The Arabs must achieve logical cohesion, a cohesion of common interests in order to be strong.

//Prince Fahd suprised us with something that we did not expect from him. He said: For instance, I am one of those who ask why each Arab country is trying to build factories like those that exist in other Arab countries. Why don't we look to each other and coordinate our interests, at least in the area of industrialization? I have always advocated this, and will seek to achieve this aim. If money mixes, it will bring the people together in a strong bond. Whether capital comes from states or people, we know in advance that we will not be able to compete with Europe or the United States. However, we can make light consumer goods, for which we are paying millions to import from abroad. We have men and thinkers and we can fetch experts temporarily. Arab men will not default. I am an advocate of Arab economic integration. We can even export our production surplus to the African and Asian peoples. Here I must point out that capital held jointly by Arab countries must be kept separate if tension arises between two Arab countries that have joint economic projects. Capital must be insured against tension. Should relations be strained between me and any state, this tension must not be used to harm the capital that I have. If relations are strained, the common interests must not be harmed, as has happened in Egypt (reference is made to the funds and projects of the joint Arab industrialization). I stress the need for capital to be joint and kept away from casual political problems.

//[Question] Why doesn't the kingdom take the initiative and call for a political summit to discuss these matters?

//[Answer] This is our duty, particularly because there is no misunderstanding, I believe between us and any Arab state that could prevent or foil the ability to reach an understanding or discuss matters with it. This could be fortunate for us in Saudi Arabia.

//Stressing the issue of the initiative again, we said:

//You have continuously been blamed for the lack of initiative. You listen well and wait for the others to come to you to tell them yes or no. It has even been stated that the Iron Curtain is not in the Soviet Union but in Saudi Arabia, that Saudi Arabia is introverted, confining its attention to the interior, and that if it were to move, it would jump over the Arabs to the wide universe.

//The Saudi crown prince said: I agree with you and I attribute this to the fact that we try very hard not to cause a misunderstanding or problems between us and any other Arab country. However, now it might be time for us not to hesitate in knocking on Arab doors and the doors of our other brothers to hold discussions with them. Perhaps we might come across sounder views. It is necessary that we should not stop when we become convinced that some action would be useful politically, socially or economically. Indeed, the lack of initiative is one of the things we are being blamed for.

//To make sure of the answer, we asked Prince Fahd again: Therefore, do you consider that it is time for Saudi Arabia to exercise directly this leading role in the Arab nation and to shoulder all its responsibilities and consequences?

//Diplomacy was evident in the prince's words when he said:

//We cannot abandon any role assigned to us if this role is acceptable to the Arab nation. Under no circumstance do I want our attitude to be interpreted as implying that Saudi Arabia is trying to come to the fore at the expense of others. If we find that our attitude is not the subject of remarks or questions, and if no adverse atmosphere, which would not benefit us, is created, we must not hesitate and must choose the method that would put Saudi Arabia in the leading position. Let us then put this method in a clear and frank framework so that it may not be directed against anybody but may serve the interests of the Arab nation. In the interests of our base as an Arab nation, nobody other than those who do not seek the interests of the Arab nation will oppose me. This is one of the duties that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia must undertake.

//After this tour in external affairs, we began asking questions about the internal situation. We asked him://

Concerning the internal situation, the incident at the Grand Mosque has caused an uproar in the world.

//Some foreign information media spoke about the approaching decline of the era of the princes. Regardless of this conclusion, the incident itself has shaken a certain image of the kingdom, which the world believed had no internal or security problems and which was described as enjoying a remarkable internal stability. Has this incident seriously raised the question of internal stability?

//Once again, the prince was not taken by surprise and started speaking as though reading from an open book. He said://

Good. We have been living this incident for 6 or 7 years; we know it precisely. There is a group that is trying to make the Islamic creed--or speak in the name of the Islamic faith--as the basis for the direction it is following. Members of this group go to the mosques and to naive people and try to impress them by saying the Islamic faith in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is weakening, that the Islamic base must be alert. Naturally, the naive people are many, and the religious feeling here is deeper than in any other country. Yes and most regrettably, we have known about this group for 6 years. We knew about their equipment and their standards. I can assure you that there was no standard, not a cultural or a leading standard among the bedouin and urban members of this group. They are mainly a group of people with limited intellect who were dominated by religious feelings. Some came from //Pakistan and //other countries to push things in a very naive manner. What happened has happened. For the sake of truth, I mention that we adopted some measures against them in the past. /However, men of religion, who are many here, used to intercede on their behalf and we used to release them and let them alone. Gradually, their work became routine."/

[Riyadh Domestic Service version renders the preceding passage between slantlines as follows: "...in the past. However, some brothers used to intercede on their behalf and we used to release them. They did so out of good will because they believed they might be useful for the call of Islam. However, it finally became evident to the brothers that their aims were sinister and contrary to the Book of God and the teachings of the Prophet. So they confronted them and exposed their deviation."] But what was new was their use of weapons. Concerning the weapons, it must be pointed out that every house in Saudi Arabia, be it in a desert or in a city, possesses weapons.

This has always been our nature. What was new is that they hid the weapons in their cloaks and paid a large sum, (40,000 riyals) to one of the doorkeepers at the Grand Mosque who helped them to bring the weapons and ammunition inside the mosque. This was the only surprise.

In any case, what happened has happened. To be exact, an incident took place that, in our opinion, does not have any depth or dimension so far. Believe me, not even an external dimension to it has become clear to us; perhaps this will appear in the future. Up to now, it has not become clear that what happened had depth in the internal sphere--in society or the army--or in the external sphere. Something new might be revealed tommorow or in the future. I do not hide our strong surprise and bewilderment regarding their use of weapons. We quite understand that they could have been convinced by nightmares; that they believed that "the awaited al-mahdi" had appeared; that they should bring a person who had been in prison a year earlier to announce near the Al-Ka'bah drapes that he is al-mahdi and to request the people to pledge allegiance to him--all this can be understood. Had they come and surrounded Al-Ka'bah with their Korans and said: We have such and such requests--whether they be religious, social or political, //and even if they were against the [Saudi royal] family//--we could have said that they were specific demands regardless of whether they were right or not. But they came saying that "the awaited al-mahdi" was with them and demanded that allegiance be pledged to him by force of arms. They story of pledging allegiance to al-mahdi ended when the person claiming to be al-mahdi was killed. The story ended completely at this point, and they realized that there was no mahdi and that the matter was "poppycock." Certainly, they had books and leaflets...after confiscating a large number of the books it has been proved to us that they were printed in Kuwait./ Therefore, they were not issued by or printed in the kingdom. The one who was called "juhayman" was like all the rest of them./ [Riyadh Domestic Service version renders the preceding passage between slantlines as follows: "...printed in Kuwait by the At-Tali'ah printing press. Undoubtedly the Kuwaiti authorities knew nothing about this. We confiscated large quantities of them. Thus they were not printed or issued in the kingdom. That person they called imam was no different than anyone else among them."] He was an extremely ordinary and naive man who could not express himself well enough to be able to write or register books or utter prophetic sayings to support his argument. He did not understand anything you said to him. He was definitely exploited by other people who are still unidentified and who could be in Kuwait or any other place. We do not know, but there were four Kuwaitis among those who were arrested. There is another person who came from Kuwait at the same time the armed men entered the mosque. He was carrying a letter from Kuwait congratulating the appearance of "al-mahdi." Those who sent the letter expressed regret at not being able to offer congratulations and pledge allegiance in person.

Once again I affirm to you the incident has not had any noticeable internal depths. We still have questions, and something might appear in the future that could change our views.

//Prince Fahd continued to give us details connected with the incident--details that could weaken or eliminate the political possibilities that could be behind it... He said: You undoubtedly know that there are stories about "al-mahdi." We believe that the true stories are the ones that assert that there is no "mahdi" other than Jesus Christ. There are certain stories based on "Sahih Muslim" and "Sahih Bukhari" [interpreters of the Koran].

//However, in other universal stories in circulation, there is one which says that "al-mahdi" will appear in the areas of Damascus; that the Euphrates River will disappear to reveal a mountain of gold; that an army from Damascus will come to invade al-mahdi; that the land will sink and swallow up the army in Damascus; that al-mahdi will take dry branches and plant them in the land and they will grow into trees, etc. Certainly, all this is fictitious, but there were some who were affected by these stories, believed them and came to pledge allegiance to al-mahdi. When the person who claimed to be al-mahdi was killed, everything came to an end. The "leaders" of the operation had told their followers at sunset: Today the earth will sink with the army coming to us...naturally the earth did not sink. They told their followers: The sinking of the earth has been postponed until tomorrow morning. When this did not happen, they told them: The sinking of the earth has been postponed 4 more days, and so on and so forth.

//In any event, it is regrettable that the incident occurred. But what is worse is that the incident was badly exploited in the United States and Europe. They portrayed it in an imaginary way that went beyond the framework of logic and reason for political reasons naturally. Why? Because they hate to see peace, stability and development in this country, in this kingdom. They hate to see the kingdom proceeding forward with firm strides and its aid continuing to the Arab states, and to the Palestinian people in particular. They want us to be toppled and to decline. This is a firm and known aim of world Zionism and those who follow in its footsteps.

//Before we could ask a new question, Prince Fahd reiterated the implications inherent in what he had previously said: I want to reaffirm that the incident did not have any political or domestic implications. The best testimony to what I am saying is that the Saudi people--civilians as well as military--have expressed their horror and denunciation of the incident. The people's reaction represented a referendum of sorts: everybody, including people not under our direct control, has issued a dictum. Furthermore, some people who supported the Al-Khawarij at the beginning because they believed in their good intentions and their abhorrance of evil, later renounced them when they saw them attacking the Holy Mosque, in which God had forbidden fighting, and when they saw the Al-Khawarij fighting next to Al-Ka'bah and killing people. You must have read about the Karmathians and what they wrought. Well, the same thing has happened all over again, and in a manner reminiscent of the incident in which the Karmathians removed the black stone from Al-Ka'bah, transferred it to Al-Ahsa' and placed it there for about 22 years. The leader of the Karmathians, a man named "Sa'id," carried out a massacre in the same Holy Mosque, killing many people and claiming the arrival of the "al-mahdi," etc.

//I now return to what you previously mentioned--stability in Saudi Arabia. There is no doubt that Saudi Arabia is proud of its stability, the power of the government and its inexhaustible capacity for carrying out things. However, what has happened here can happen anywhere. Only yesterday, a famous massacre took place in California [as published] in which about 900 people died. Some of them committed suicide and the others were killed by their leader, who was proclaiming the birth of a certain belief.

//What I mean is that such an incident can happen anywhere, anytime. Take America, for example, or Europe: how many incidents occur in these very progressive countries?! Believe me when I tell you that I feel safer when I go to Lebanon or any other Arab or African country than when I go to Europe or America. In Europe, anyone wearing a new suit or riding in a new, big car is now subjecting himself to danger, while the motorcycle has become the preferred mode of transport.//

We asked Prince Fahd: Don't you think that a strict implementation of religious laws--or what is taken to be such, since it is a well-known fact that this strict adherence to religious laws assumes very severe proportions in Saudi Arabia--was one of the dominant causes that led to the Holy Mosque incident? Some people see a similiarity between this incident and the abcess that appears in the sick person's body.

[Riyadh Domestic Service version inserts the following here: "Prince Fahd replied: "I do not believe that strictness is contrary to faith. Anyway, our country is the cradle of revelation and the land of the Prophet Muhammad. We will adhere to our faith to the utmost."]

//Prince Fahd replied: There are those who want us to be more severe and who are accusing us of negligence because we allow television and photography--which they also consider to be a sin. These people are demanding many other things that are illogical and unacceptable--particularly in our age.

//We said: We did not mean this. We meant that you are reaping the results of an enduring severity and that there is a need to abandon this severe attitude.

//Prince Fahd replied: I agree with you on this, and so does religion. Whoever reads the Islamic religion and whoever profoundly and carefully studies the prophet's story and that of his followers will find matters extremely simplified therein. The Prophet has put severe limitations against punishing people or accusing them of something that reflects on their honor or their religion.

//There is a story about a woman who was accused of prostitution during the reign of 'Umar ibn al-Khattab. 'Umar and some of his colleagues went to her house and knocked on the door, but she did not open it. They climbed the back fence and looked over and found evidence substantiating the charge against the woman. They were consternated, however, when the woman said: O 'Umar! God, may His name be glorified, says in His book: "Enter houses through the proper doors." But you came in through the back. So 'Umar said: The woman is right and 'Umar is wrong!

//Take prostitution, for instance. No man or woman can be accused of prostitution, according to the canonical law of Islam, except by the testimony of four witnesses who are willing to swear that they saw the man's penis in the woman's vulva. If one of these witnesses is hesitant or doubtful, or if it is proved that he did not see the event with his own eyes, the prosecutor will be accused of slander and libel.

//Therefore one can say that adopting a strict stand on some matters can elicit the opposite results. However, some of those who practice Islam are very strict simply because they believe that this is the best way. However, sometimes the reaction or repercussions can be very bad indeed. Today, we are living in an age that is very different from that of 50 years ago. We are still abiding by rules and norms drawn up by men of religion 200 or 300 years ago. Perhaps these rules were good at the time, but they aren't now and must be revised in light of the Islamic principles and laws. This means that we must provide the people with the proper creed. It is wrong to portray our creed as inflexible. On the contrary, our creed calls for flexibility, tenderness, sincerity, loyalty, chivalry and fearlessness. Religion does not call for complicating matters, and it is our task to enhance these meanings.

//The prince reflected for a while then said, as if he was thinking aloud: Our task as Muslims and our particular task as Saudis is to take practical steps in this direction.

//What I am thinking about right now is to summon the biggest possible number of Islamic leaders, be they men of religion or Muslim intellectuals, to tell them: We are living in an age that requires change. God's Book frankly and clearly implies this. As for the teachings, let us search for the best ones in order to adapt them and end our differences. Let us review all creeds and adopt those that are nearer to logic and our epoch as long as they emanate from God's Book and the teachings of His Eminent Prophet.

//A Call for an Islam Without Denominations

//[Question] Is this a call for a single Islam without denominations?

//[Answer] Yes, yes and the adoption of what is closer to the spirit of Islam and the easiest of individual judgements. Why should the Muslims be divided into various denominations? Let us put all differences into one framework, and let us remember that religion and worship is for God. Let all Shi'ite and Sunnite Muslims meet and discuss their differences and agree to adopt what is closer to religion and the spirit of the age we live in and what could be suitable for our young men and women, and let us approve it and adopt it.

//This matter occupies much of my thinking. I think it is necessary for all Muslims to unite within the framework of their religion and on one specific course we can all follow.

//I do not hide from you that I am hesitant in raising these views, because I want to discuss them first with the Sunnite and Shi'ite ulema and others who belong to Islam, whether they are men of religion or thought, to ask for their help in quietly and constructively reaching a firm basis that no one can object to if it was adopted.

//[Question] Such calls have been made for some time, and perhaps the most prominent of their advocators now are the revolutionaries in Iran and the leaders in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

//[Answer] This is good.

//[Question] Of course, it is a shame, anyway, for us to remain in such a situation. Isn't it strange that the Muslims should have two moons, one for the Sunnites and one for the Shi'ites; a moon that appears today and another that appears tomorrow.

//[Answer] Let us unite individual judgements.

//[Question] We hope so. By the way, we want to point out that such a call was made at the large Islamic meeting that took place a few days ago in Beirut during the celebrations marking the beginning of the 15th Hegira century.

//[Answer] The unification of denominations is of utmost necessity for us. I advocate such a call because I believe it is necessary. If all efforts are united and mobilized, and if the information media make a good effort to enlighten the people, a suitable atmosphere will be created for discussing the matter in good spirit and openmindedness. Even if those opposing the idea appear, they will not be many, and they will eventually join the caravan out of concern for the unity of Islam and the Muslims and to confront the world, East and West, as one united rank.

//Consultative Council, Soon

//We moved one more step along the way of exploring the horizons of development in the internal situation.

//[Question] Voices have risen in the kingdom, including those from the royal family, since the sixties talking about or demanding changes that would open the door to some sort of democracy.// In the statement you delivered on behalf of King Khalid upon his installation as a successor to the late King Faysal, you referred to a "consultative council."

The Saudi crown prince interrupted us to say quickly:

[Answer] You have asked about a subject currently under consideration. In fact, we have been working on it and preparing for it for the past 45 days. We are about to complete the draft and put it in its final organizational form. But, why have we been late? The truth is that a few years ago we were lacking the resources, capabilities and scientific standards on which we could depend. Today, in the kingdom, we possess excellent scientific standards and thinkers with very sound thoughts. Therefore, we will soon have a consultative council composed of as yet an unspecified number of people--perhaps 50, or 60, or 70, I don't know exactly now.

[Question] Will this council be elected?

[Answer] No, it will be by appointment. We must proceed gradually at the beginning. had tried elections, for instance in the municipal councils. Once we held these elections; do you know who won? Those who understood nothing! Those who have money!

[Question] Then a consultative council will be set up by appointment. Can we know when?

[Answer] In a period not exceeding 2 months I believe...a period needed for drafting the basic system.

[Question] You mean the constitution?

[Answer] You may say that, but we do not use the term constitution in this context since the constitution is the Koran. The main thing is that the basic system is being prepared now and will be the first subject to be considered by the consultative council for approval and adoption.

//[Question] Who is drafting this basic system?

//[Answer] A number of specialized committees are drafting it and the consultative council will, after its appointment, consider, amend or supplement it.

//[Question] How many articles will there be in the draft?

//[Answer] About 200...when these two matters are completed we will be further assured as responsible state officials. However, the responsibility will not be shouldered by five or six persons but by many citizens.

//Prince Fahd then began discussing other aspects of the domestic situation that were of direct concern and a source of pride to him. He said: As you know, our country is a large continent. Several projects have been achieved, but because the country is so large, no complete idea about the size of the achievement was possible. I wish you had seen the new tunnels in Mecca.

//[Question] We glanced at some accesses.

//[Answer] They are huge tunnels, about 1,200 meters long by about 22 meters wide. Traffic moves in both directions to and from Muna. Tomorrow, God willing, I will send you a letter on the achievements in the 5-year plan so that you may see what the situation was 5 years ago and what we have implemented during this period, particularly at home.

//We are suffering from lack of information in this field. This is a real and ugly shortcoming. Admitting a mistake is a virtue. Had it not been for this shortcoming, everybody would have known what we have actually achieved, not on paper or for propaganda purposes. The achievements made really exist, and citizens can see and feel their effect in the first place. We are not like others who are interested in people abroad hearing about their achievements while not caring if the citizens know about them.

//We want you to know us as we really are. We want you to know what we are doing in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Many portray us as a state of princes only. In fact, no prince can order the expenditures of a single piaster from the state treasury or from any other source. But these rumors about us were deeprooted in minds. Our clan is a big one, as you know. It includes about 4,000 persons, maybe more...it is a "whole tribe by itself." Members of one family cannot all be of the same standard and all cannot be at the same level and basically they cannot be asked to be so. Is this correct or not?

//[Question] In principle it is correct.

//[Answer] Naturally the good ones among them are entitled to the rights of the good citizen and those behaving badly should be disciplined like any other citizen.

//[Question] However, one should admit that for a long period the family and the kingdom, that is the state, were one.

//[Answer] That is correct.

//[Question] That is, that the princes or some of them were behaving as though the kingdom was their personal property.

//[Answer] Perhaps this was the case before and maybe this picture about us remained in the minds of the people, who assumed that a prince could do whatever he wants without being brought to account. However, the fact is that a prince cannot do whatever he wants. By God, he cannot act as he wants. I tell you more than that: Most of us, as a family, do not enjoy one percent of what many citizens enjoy as regards housing and livelihood.

//Pointing with both hands, Crown Prince Fahd said: Look at this house of mine. Is there anything ususual? There are classes of people here who are leading immeasurably more luxurious lives than the princes.

//But it is difficult to change the strong image unless the facts about the benefits that Saudi citizens have obtained are shown. These facts can show the standard of living of the Saudi citizen and the social, medical and economic services given him, apart from the parks, bridges, tunnels, houses and aid from which Saudi citizens benefit. I will send you tomorrow God willing, a brochure on the 5-year plan we are implementing. (It will be finished in 2 or 3 months). The plan has been completed in 4 years and 2 months instead of 5 years. We are going to embark on a new 5-year plan. There are now six universities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I was minister of education in the first cabinet that was formed in 1954. At that time the number of pupils totalled 35,000. We then had only two secondary schools, graduates of which we sent abroad on scholarships to finish their university education. Today our schools, institutes and universities provide education for 870,000 students and pupils. Girls schools provide education for 570,000 girls. That is, the number of students totals about 1.5 million, whereas the total was only 35,000 25 years ago. Scores of secondary schools, hundreds of primary schools, vocational institutes and six high-level universities have been built. These are some of our achievements. I remember as an example that 150 doctors were graduated from our universities last year. This year the number of graduate doctors rose to 250. Students pursuing studies for doctoral degrees can study at our universities. We have scientific universities that befit kings. Imagine six universities have been built in a country like ours within a few years. This is not easy.

//Prince Fahd gave us further details of what he calls the overall scientific and educational renaissance, saying: I am now the chairman of the higher educational committee. Among our interests is to send between 60 and 65 percent of primary school graduates to vocational institutes, because the graduates of these institutes can find other jobs if they do not work in their specialities. Graduates of arts departments will always have difficulty finding jobs. There are departments in our universities that will admit only high scientific standards and I cite as an example the Saudi civil aviation. Perhaps this organization is the largest air company in Asia and Africa. It has well over 75 of the world's most modern airliners. We have about 350 Saudi civil pilots and a very good aviation institute. I would like to tell you something that you may not believe. We are training American pilots. In certain cases we need pilots and bring pilots with the first degree in aviation. Saudi pilots then train them at our institutes so that they can work on a contract bases with Saudi Airways. The military aviation college will graduate a fairly considerable number this year. The number of pilots totals 650, including some who are qualified to fly U.S. F-15 planes. You have seen some of our pilots in the air parade.

//Prince Fahd again repeated this comparison, revelling in the sound of big figures, saying: There were only two secondary schools in 1954 and now we have six universities. From 35,000 students in 1954 the figure rose to hundreds of thousands in only 10 years. During the next 10 years we will reach self-sufficiency in university teachers. Now we have achieved self-sufficiency in the teachers of the primary and preparatory stages. As for the secondary stage it is likely to achieve self-sufficiency within 5 years. We must point out here that our Egyptian brothers taught us a lesson by withdrawing suddenly when our problem with 'Abd an-Nasir erupted in Yemen. Government employees were asked to teach in the afternoon in addition to their work. As for university professors, 90 percent are Saudis and only 10 percent are non-Saudis. They have best degrees from the best universities of the United States, Britain, Germany and other places. We now have 13,000 students in the United States specializing in electronics, technological studies and vocational branches. To make a long story short, we are racing against time to make up for what we lost although we always bear in mind that our country is a continent.

//If you take a Boeing 707 on a trip from Jizan in the south to Al-Jawf in the north it will take you 2 and 1/2 hours, whereas the flight from London to Paris takes only 50-minutes. The trip between our cities on the Red Sea and those on the gulf takes about 2 hours. These enormous distances cause us many problems. The establishment of a village, building roads to connect the various parts of the country and providing the necessary services are not easy things. Despite this our achivements are obvious and living in the country--take foodstuffs--the state pays half the cost. We have the industrial bank for industrial loans (without interest), and the agricultural bank for agrarian loans (without interest). We even import cows from countries that raise them and the state pays for transportation. We also have the development bank and many other facilities. Tomorrow I will send you complete information on everything. You will see for yourself how many achievements have been attained. But we have failed to acquaint the world with them and people cannot guess.

//The Iron Curtain Talk

//[Question] This leads us back to the Iron Curtain talk.

//Prince Fahd smiled and said: We no longer want the Iron Curtain; we want a transparent curtain now.

//We surprised him with a new question on As-Sadat.

//[Question] When will As-Sadat fall?

//He smiled while returning the ball to us.

//[Answer] You know this better than I do.

//We maintained the offensive with some pomposity.

//[Question] It is estimated that you, supported by others, could have overthrown him, but you did not do enough. It is estimated that you still can overthrow him, if you want. With all due respect to the Egyptian people, now we would like to ask whether this assessment is correct or not?

//[Answer] By God, no. I do not think the assessment is correct. I do not think that we alone can do more than we have done. But collectively, the assessment would be correct.

//He paused for a moment, and then raised his eyebrows in surprise and said: Haven't you noticed how As-Sadat exploded with anger when King Khalid visited the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah? His attitude was strange--as if we had occupied Alexandria or Cairo.

//We tried to touch on the untouchable. We move to the question of oil. We asked Prince Fahd: Let us talk a little about oil. From time to time there is talk about the possibility of using oil as a political weapon. It is noted that Saudi Arabia has always tried to exonerate itself of this "accusation." Brother Ahmad Zaki Yamani is very clever in exonerating himself all the time. He always affirms that you will not use the oil as a political weapon, although U.S. President Carter has already used oil as a political weapon against the Iranian people. Why should it be all right for the United States to use oil in an unjust case, and it is not all right for us, considering that we have a just case? Aren't these our money and wealth? Why all this objection and extreme reservation?

//Prince Fahd took the meat out of the issue by saying: This is a mistake on the part of Ahmad Zaki. He is not authorized to make statements on these matters. I repeat to you what I have already told the Arab leaders at the Tunis conference--and they accepted my analysis. I told them: Oil is a very sensitive material. It is a material that you Arabs possess and nobody else but you. When the time comes to use the resources of the Arab nation, I do not think anyone will spare anything, even himself, to defend the homeland. However, just talking about the use of oil for the sake of talking only causes us many problems and does not benefit us at all. Exaggeration for the sake of exaggeration is impermissible, especially when the subject of the exaggeration and threat is a sensitive material like oil on which big industrial states depend. We must recognize, whether we like it or not, that Europe and Japan depend to a large extent on our oil, and it is in our interest to maintain good relations with the European states and Japan. As for the United States, it will not be affected very much, because it has reserves and oil sources in Alaska and other places.

//We were about to ask another question about oil, but Prince Fahd apologized, preferring to keep this sensitive subject out of the limelight and press statements. So we move to the question of the repeated U.S. threats to invade the oilfields.

//[Question] The U.S. threat to invade the oilfields if something happens that would stop the flow is well known. Do you consider these threats addressed to you, or is their aim to protect you against possible dangers, as they say? What is your attitude toward the threats, and how do you envisage confronting the invasion, should it happen?

//[Answer] Those who make the threats may create some justifications for invasion. We understand from these threats that they are basically directed at the industrial states (Europe and Japan). Where will the invasion take place? Will they invade the desert? If that takes place, we sons of the desert will still be able to survive in it, but they cannot. At any rate, the most one can do in confronting an invasion is to blow up the oil wells. If the time comes for such a decision, we will act with the necessary intelligence and responsibility.

//[Question] The oil states have been called on to give preferential treatment to the Third World states with regard to the oil prices, and nothing of this sort has happened. Why, from your point of view?

//[Answer] This is one of the real problems we suffer with the poor states. Who suffers when the oil prices are raised? This problem must be understood. The poor states will mainly suffer. What can be done? Either we pay them the difference or we lose them as friendly states which support us and support our issues at the United Nations and other international forums and some of them are related to us. A special fund has been set up for this purpose in which the money from the differences resulting from the price increases is deposited. The capital of this fund has been increased considerably in order to provide development aid to the poor states. This way we avoid showing the price increase as directed against one side; namely, the European states and Japan.

//[Question] We understand this question very well. When you raise your oil prices we pay an exorbitant price difference in a country such as Lebanon....

//[Answer] Let me be frank with you regarding Lebanon and the oil. We are sustaining great losses by keeping the tapline in operation. However, although our losses amount to tens of millions, the line will be maintained as one way of assisting fraternal Lebanon.

//Incidentally, have you heard that the cargo of a second ship was stolen in Lebanon (the cargo belonged to Saudi merchants)? We were told that Sham'un's group and their supporters looted the cargo of the first ship. We wonder who stole the goods from the second?

//[Question] Were not Sham'un and his supporters among your friends? Have you not always helped them?

//Fahd said firmly: Never, they are not our friends. For your information, they have not received a single piaster in aid from us for the last 6 years. Naturally they did not receive a single bullet.... As for the Saudi arms or ammunition reportedly in their possession, the fact is that before the war we offered some military assistance to the Lebanese army. They seized these or some army men handed the arms to them. Did we do anything wrong?//

[Question] What about the reported military bases and the U.S. exploratory mission?

[Answer] In fact, a U.S. military mission visited us to discuss the question of arming the kingdom and other similar matters. It did not discuss the establishment of U.S. bases or airports. In any case, you can affirm on my behalf that Saudi Arabia will not accept the establishment of any kind of base and it did not conclude any agreement to offer any kind of facilities to the Americans or others.

[Question] What about the repeated Israeli threats on the possibility of dealing a blow to some areas, perhaps to the oilfields in Saudi Arabia?

Prince Fahd gave a very brief and specific answer: Israel is an instrument carrying out orders....

[Question] How about the Islamic Revolution in Iran and the relations with it at present and the possibility of developing them in the future?

[Answer] We have no problems with Iran at present. We are completely satisfied in this respect, contrary to what prevailed during the shah's regime. Regardless of the statements made now and then by irresponsible persons or organizations abusing and attacking the kingdom, discussions are underway at a very high level, with Iranian officials to unify our voice. We have met with the chairman of the Iranian pilgrimage mission who gave us a good message from Khomeyni.... Moreover, the Saudi foreign minister has been invited and will shortly visit Iran and meet with officials there.

What actually concerns us is stability of the situation in Iran, which we view as a Muslim and friendly country.

[Question] How do you view Khomeyni's stand on the Holy Mosque incident?

[Answer] He was entitled to accuse the United States and Zionism. It is true that it was an assumption and that he exploited this to serve his battle against the Americans. However, his stand at the same time reflected the Muslims' concern over the sacred places.

[Question] This means that you benefited from his stand. He absolutely condemned the mosque attackers. //A condemnation from him is completely different from one coming from you.//

[Answer] This is correct. We appreciated his stand. May God give us the strength to serve Islam and the Muslims.

[Question] You have referred in your interview to the Soviet Union and the Eastern camp. We would like to ask you about the possibility of establishing direct relations between the kingdom and the Eastern camp....

[Answer] Naturally it is illogical and unreasonable for us to ignore the presence of a big power such as the Soviet Union or the socialist camp. We must recognize the political facts of the present era regardless of our ideological stand.

//I would like to tell you that we have recently observed a positive development in the Soviet Union's policy. It began through its information media with the expression of some views indicating that it behaves as though it understands us. It no longer described us as it had before (as reactionaries, colonialist agents, imperialist lackeys and so forth). On our part we began dealing with it even indirectly in a reasonable way.

//It can be said that it was a mutual response. We are fully satisfied with this development between us. Economic and trade relations with the Soviet Union and the Eastern camp in general are good. I assume that in a short time we will reach the desired level.

//[Question] You mean the establishment of direct diplomatic relations?

//In a reserved tone, Prince Fahd said: In fact, we should first prepare our people for this. We should make a great effort at home to change the view of the people to make them accept what they rejected before. However, we are sure that this will take place at the appropriate time.

//The time was nearing 0100. The Saudi crown prince's eyes were tired. It was apparent that the remaining questions had to wait for another interview.

//We bid the prince farewell. He accompanied us to the entrance of the house amidst the silence prevailing in the capital--which was nothing before the Saudis adopted it as their capital, staying away from places linked with the history of others so that they may have their own history.

//In the open country and in the midst of the night silence, the only thing to be heard was the breathing of the Najd Desert.//

FOREIGN MINISTER: SOVIET ACTION AFFECTS WORLD SECURITY

LD141558 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Jan 80 LD

[Text] Riyadh--His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister, has stressed that the kingdom and Britain agree that the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan is an extremely grave act against the security and peace in the region, and that it represents an occupation operation by the Soviet Union against an independent and sovereign Islamic country. His royal highness, at a press conference held at Riyadh airport prior to the departure of British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington, said the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan not only affected Islam and security in the region, but also affected security and stability in the whole world.

His royal highness the foreign minister mentioned that viewpoints during the talks with Lord Carrington coincided on the necessity to achieve security and stability in the region and the immediate withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. His Royal Highness Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal added that the entire international community had obligations as a result of the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

His royal highness stressed that the kingdom was part of the Muslim world, which regards the Soviet invasion as a grave action, directed against the countries of the Third World, or rather, the entire international community. His royal highness pointed out that Muslim reaction to this intervention was strong; this had become evident through the UN General Assembly debate on the situation in Afghanistan. He stressed that the countries of the Muslim world are independent and sovereign countries and they are not part of the axis of confrontation between East and West, nor are they the balance the polarization in this world.

His royal highness renewed the kingdom's siding with countries of the Muslim world in one rank so as to preserve the rights of their Muslim brothers all over the world. His royal highness expressed the hope that the European countries would be on the side of right.

Regarding the situation in the Middle East, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, made public the agreement of Saudi and British viewpoints regarding the necessity of achieving a comprehensive, just peace in the region and the realization there of security and stability.

His royal highness stressed that the Arab conflict with the Israeli enemy was a conflict affecting all aspects of the activities and situation in this vital region of the world. He said: This conflict not only affects relations among the countries of the region but is strongly tied to Arab-European relations. His royal highness the foreign minister expressed his hope that cooperation will take place between the countries of the Arab world and (?international communities) in order to realize peace and stability in the Middle East region, peace built upon justice.

Regarding a question as to whether an American military presence in the region would help to overcome the [word indistinct] of Afghanistan and Iran, he said the kingdom hoped that the Soviet Union would withdraw its forces from Afghanistan. He stressed that the kingdom did not want the presence of any foreign forces in the region, whoever they were and regardless of the circumstances. He said the states of the region were completely capable of guarding their security and safety.

AS-SADAT ON JERUSALEM ISSUE, SUPPORT FOR AFGHANISTAN

NC151648 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1629 GMT 15 Jan 80 NC

[Text] Aswan, 15 January--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has denied the report published by the Israeli newspaper MA'ARIV about the partition of Jerusalem. He said that during Begin's recent visit he discussed the subject with him, and that they were talks only and did not go beyond that.

With regard to Afghanistan, President as-Sadat said that Egypt still adheres to its position, which is full support for Afghanistan.

President as-Sadat made these statements today to correspondents of foreign news agencies after the conclusion of his visit to As-Sadat village.

President as-Sadat said that he was happy today because every citizen in Egypt will have a share in the prosperity and progress of his country. He also expressed happiness at the progress which has been made in this respect.

His excellency added that he was extremely happy when the social insurance system was applied to the fishermen in the High Dam lake. This will have an effect in cases of illness, disability or any other hardships which they may face.

GHALI SENDS MESSAGES TO FOREIGN MINISTERS

NC151600 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Jan 80 NC

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali sent messages today to the foreign ministers of Panama, Nepal, Argentina, Burma, Thailand, Tanzania and Ghana. In his messages Ghali explained Egypt's position in the autonomy negotiations and the normalization of relations with Israel, and emphasized Egypt's condemnation of Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

AUTONOMY SUBCOMMITTEES RESUME TALKS IN CAIRO 15 JAN

NC151410 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 15 Jan 80 NC

[Text] Al-Jizah, 15 January--The inaugural session of the two subcommittees emanating from the general committee of the autonomy negotiations began at Mena House in Al-Jizah at 0930 today. The first subcommittee is concerned with the elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the second subcommittee is concerned with the powers and jurisdictions of the proposed Palestinian authority.

The Egyptian side to the meetings was headed by Ambassadors 'Izzat 'Abd al-Latif and Mamduh 'Abd ar-Rassaq. The Israeli side was headed by Interior Ministry Under Secretary Hayim (Cooperiskiy) while the U.S. side was headed by James Leonard, the alternate chief delegate to the autonomy negotiations.

The closed inaugural session of the two subcommittes emanating from the general committee of the autonomy negotiations lasted about half an hour. The heads of the three delegations made short speeches.

The Egyptian delegation welcomed the other delegations and referred to Egypt's firm stands concerning the powers of full autonomy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The leaders of the U.S. and Israeli delegations referred to the progress made in the past sessions, particularly at the meeting of the general committee of the autonomy negotiations held at Mena House recently.

The inaugural session was followed by an unofficial meeting during which the modus operandi of the two subcommittees and the preparations for the agenda were discussed. It was agreed to hold two morning and two evening sessions alternately by the powers and elections subcommittees, provided these sessions be preceded by a general closed meeting and be concluded by a similar general meeting.

MENA has learned from diplomatic sources at the meeting that the Israeli delegation brought a model for the autonomy powers, proposed by Israel. It is known that at the previous session at Mena House the general committee asked the subcommittees to prepare a joint model of the proposed powers for autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza.

It was also learned that the Egyptian delegation has its own visualization of the autonomy powers, based on Egypt's position concerning the transfer of the powers currently exercised by the Israeli military government and its civilian administration in the West Bank and Gaza to the Palestinian authority. At previous meetings Egypt stressed the need to transfer these powers to the proposed Palestinian authority.

MENA has further learned that the Egyptian delegation to the elections committee will reaffirm Egypt's principled stand on the need to consider Jerusalem as an indivisible part of the West Bank, and that what applies to the West Bank during the elections must also apply to East Jerusalem.

The elections committee began its meeting to complete the general structure of the elections, particularly the formation of the committee to supervise and administer the elections as well as the criteria of the international dignitaries which will participate in this committee.

The Egyptian delegation will raise the question of Jerusalem and whether it will be a constituency in itself or part of a constituency. The Egyptian delegation will raise this question on the basis that Jerusalem and holding elections in it are basic elements of the Egyptian position.

Ambassador 'Izzat 'Abd al-Latif said that the meetings were held in light of recent developments, mainly the Aswan meeting between President Anwar as-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin, and the beginning of the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel. He said that the powers committee held a 2-hour closed meeting which was confined to the heads of delegations. He added that the committee will resume work this afternoon.

Chairman of the elections committee Ambassador Mamduh 'Abd ar-Razzaq said that a subcommittee has been formed and it held a meeting to prepare a new working paper pinpointing the points of disagreement between the Egyptian and Israeli sides. He added that at tomorrow's meeting the elections committee will discuss the subcommittee's report.

The committees will resume work this evening.

Second Meeting

NC151931 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Jan 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 January--The two working committees of the Palestinian autonomy negotiations resumed their meetings this evening at Mena House Hotel in Al-Jizah.

MENA has learned that the committees continued discussing the powers and jurisdiction of the Palestinian autonomy authority in the West Bank and Gaza and tried to define the points of disagreement in order to overcome them.

Meanwhile, the subcommittee stemming from the elections committee resumed its meetings to draw up a final report on its work.

The committees will resume their meetings tomorrow.

DEFENSE MINISTER ON COOPERATION WITH ISRAEL, OTHER TOPICS

LD161059 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Jan 80 p 1 ID

[Sana' Sa'id report]

[Text] Cairo--Egyptian Defense Minister Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali has made a statement to ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT about American military experts in Egypt and the prospects of military cooperation with Israel after the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel.

Replying to a question on the training of Egyptians on F-4 aircraft by American aviation technicians, General 'Ali said: It is inevitable that help has to be given by experts initially and for some time. We are also sending Egyptian pilots to America for training so that when they return they will be able to instruct pilots in Egypt.

Asked about the types of weapons Egypt was receiving and whether they were of the same standard as the weapons existing in the area, General 'Ali said: Phantom aircraft are still being used in the United States to date. We shall compare other types of weapons after Vice President Husni Mubarak's visit to the United States and his meeting with President Carter.

General 'Ali declined to comment on the Chinese arms deal to Egypt, on the scale of U.S. aid to Egypt, and the volume of Egyptian military aid to Afghan revolutionaries.

Regarding Egypt's degree of preparedness to meet the situation in the area, General 'Ali said: Egypt is prepared to honor its Arab commitments and to implement the joint defense agreements with Sudan. Egypt and Sudan are bound by strong ties. And we will definitely not abandon Sudan if it asks for our help. The same thing applies to Oman to which we have an Arab commitment.

On the normalization of relations with Israel and the establishment of a military alliance between Egypt and Israel in the present circumstances, General 'Ali said: President as-Sadat has given a categorical answer to the question of military cooperation.

My view is that it will not come about at the present time unless the crux of the problem--the Palestinian issue--is resolved. When that happens, the map of the area would change and so would the mode of coexistence and cooperation among the area's states. It is only then that we would start a dialog for strategic cooperation between Egypt and Israel. But in the present circumstances, that is absolutely impossible.

Asked if the present Soviet expansion has entailed Egyptian and Israeli commitments to provide certain facilities to their mutual friend, the United States, General 'Ali replied: The United States' being a third party and a mutual friend of the two other parties (to the peace treaty), does not put us under any kind of obligation at all.

DOCTORS UNION PREPARING TO ASSIST AFGHAN REFUGEES

NC150817 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2255 GMT 15 Jan 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 January--Wednesday's issue of AL-AHRAM reports that the Egyptian doctors union, in cooperation with the Health Ministry and medical schools, has begun forming fully equipped medical teams from all specializations and medical branches to provide medical assistance to Afghan refugees in their assembly areas in Pakistan. The union has asked (Samihullah Mujahid Quresh), the Pakistani ambassador in Cairo, to contact his government to facilitate the mission of these medical teams and specify the areas in which they can work.

JOINT COMPANY SET UP WITH BRITAIN TO PRODUCE LIQUID BATTERIES

NC151235 Cairo MENA in English 1205 GMT 15 Jan 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, Jan. 15 (MENA)--Egypt and Britain today signed an agreement for the setting up of a joint company for liquid batteries industry, with a British-Egyptian capital of 9 million pounds.

Following the signing of the accord, an official source at the Ministry of Industry said the British firm will contribute 50 percent of company's capital and the Barclays Bank 2 percent. The general company for batteries will pay 37 percent and the fund for boosting university studies contributes 10 percent. The source said that the new plants will be set up in the industrial area of Al-Jizah, and will accommodate some 430 workers recording an annual output of 400,000 batteries in the first year, which will be raised to a million batteries per year according to the need of the local market and export.

MINISTER DENOUNCES SOVIET INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN

LD141623 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 10 Jan 80 p 5 LD

[Egyptian Awqaf Minister Dr 'Abd al-Mun'im an-Nimr article: "This Disgraceful Action"]

[Excerpts] How often have I, as well as others, shouted and warned against the fire of communism and the communists? Since as well as before 1976, I have warned in AL-AKHBAR against giving the advocates of communism any say in a country whose constitution stipulates that its official religion is Islam.

Like others, I have recognized that communists in any country are agents of the "mother" state, of communism against their own country; they exploit freedom of expression and ride the crest of every wave in order to achieve their objectives.

The passage of time and events have proved what we have believed. The recent events in Afghanistan have removed any doubt about what we said and faced us clearly with the truth: that every communist in his own country is a "Hafizollah" or a "Taraki" or, more recently, a "Babrak Karmal," as in Afghanistan. These men came to power by force with Russian help and subjugated their country with Russian tanks. Previously, similar traitors to their own countries took control of South Yemen and other countries.

I am greatly surprised and very afraid when I see Muslim rulers behave indifferently toward a danger threatening them and about to destroy them, their religion, their countries and their history. The greatest help in paving the way to communism is bad behavior and abuse of money by rich Muslims and their rulers who ignore the peoples that look to them, and the suffering which the people endure while the rulers enjoy affluence and comfort. Perhaps what has happened in Afghanistan will be a warning to all these. We have seen how all except a few communist states and parties and countries that revolve in the Russian orbit expressed support for the disgraceful action committed by Russia.

The attitude of the Italian Communist Party, according to news agency reports, was more honorable than the attitude of certain Arab countries such as South Yemen and Syria. The Italian Communist Party denounced Russia's action while South Yemen, Syria and the Arab communist parties supported it.

South Yemen has become a communist base and state without the Arab rulers and leaders realizing it. In Syria the 'Alawite rulers stand against the Muslim people in Afghanistan because they are against Muslims in Syria itself. In Lebanon, the leaders are far from the true Islamic spirit. Incidentally, where do Khalid Muhyi ad-Adin [leader of the Egyptian Nationalist Progressive Unionist grouping] and his party stand? Where do the communist groupings in Egypt stand toward this disgraceful action? I believe that so far they have been unable to declare their denunciation of what their mother has done, even to be hypocritical and pay lip service to public opinion in Egypt and throughout the world.

Every communist in our country and elsewhere could be a Hafizollah, a Taraki of a Karmal in his own country and play the same treacherous role as those who have betrayed their own country when an opportunity presented itself.

As for Russia, the country that has based its propaganda on the allegation that it supports downtrodden nations in regaining their freedom, the truth about it has been revealed and has destroyed in a single moment what took years to build. No fool will believe it today, after it has trampled on a whole people, suppressed their freedom and killed thousands of their sons. Who would from now on trust it or trust any communist, or believe its sweet talk after it has flouted the most fundamental principles of humanity, violated all international laws and convenants and perpetrated this disgraceful action?

If anything, this is a warning to mankind.

BRIEFS

ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF--Cairo, 12 January--It has been decided to appoint Staff Maj Gen Kamal Abu al-'Azayim as assistant chief of staff of the armed forces. [Cairo MENA in Arabic 1912 GMT 12 Jan 80 NC]

COMMENTARY CRITICIZES EXPORT OF IRANIAN REVOLUTION

JN151910 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Jan 80 JN

[Text] It is not strange for Khomeyni's regime to speak hypocritically and to try to depict matters in a false manner when it calls for exporting what it calls the Iranian Revolution to other countries. When the regime says this revolution should not be confined to Iran, the regime seeks to stress a number of obvious points resulting from the events the Iranian arena has witnessed, and is still witnessing, since the assumption of power by Khomeyni's regime at the beginning of last year. In other words, the manifestations of confusion, turbulence, bloody terrorism and foolish policy followed by the regime against the Iranian peoples struggling for their aims and rights, should not be confined only to Iran, and thus must be exported outside Iran, according to the present regime in Tehran.

This call not only seems suspicious, but is identical to the way Khomeyni's regime is thinking. It also gives expression to the regime's intentions, which stand for its policies, policies which U.S. imperialist quarters call for so that they can be used as pretexts in order to implement and peddle the U.S. imperialists' hostile schemes and in order to try to find new spheres of influence for themselves in the area.

Khomeyni's regime, which has created more difficult conditions for the Iranian peoples than those that prevailed before the collapse of the shah's regime, no longer constitutes the substitute Washington sought in order to change the form of its policy in the area. Rather, Khomeyni's regime, with its acts of terrorism and oppressive measures, is now constituting a new factor used by U.S. imperialism to peddle its nerious schemes. This indicates that the situation in Iran will most likely develop to a certain degree compatible with Washington's calculations with regard to Khomeyni's policy.

These facts, which manifest Khomeyni's connection with the suspicious U.S. scheme in the area, cannot deceive anybody. They have become quite clear. The Iranian people are struggling against Khomeyni and are confronting his terrorist and oppressive acts. The area's peoples are also well aware of Khomeyni's intentions, intentions which first and foremost are aimed at enabling U.S. imperialism to intensify its military presence under various pretexts. This is confirmed by the development of events in the area.

Khomeyni's regime is playing the shah's role, but under different covers compatible with the developments in current events. This regime will only reap defeat. The isolation of this regime and the mounting of the Iranian people's revolution against this regime are only signs of Khomeyni's defeat and the victory of the will of the Iranian peoples.

SOVIET DEPUTY MINISTER KUDRYAVSTEV ARRIVES 12 JAN

JN121503 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1358 GMT 12 Jan 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 12 January--Lev Kudryavtsev, Soviet deputy minister of construction of petroleum and gas industry enterprises, arrives in Baghdad today at the head of a delegation on a visit to Iraq. Kudryavtsev said he will discuss bilateral cooperation in the petroleum field with oil ministry officials and will acquaint himself with the progress of the projects that are being implemented by the Soviet Union in Iraq.

ADF COMMANDER BRIEFS SARKIS ON DAMASCUS VISIT

NC141217 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Jan 80 NC

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis received the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] commander, Brig Gen Sami al-Khatib at 0930 today. During the meeting they discussed the extension of the ADF mandate. Al-Khatib also briefed President Sarkis on the results of his talks yesterday with senior Syrian officials in Damascus. The meeting also dealth with other issues of common concern. Lebanon is scheduled to ask the Arab League General Secretariat to extend the ADF mandate in Lebanon for 6 months. The Arab League Council will hold a meeting to endorse the Lebanese request since it is not currently in session. The ADF mandate expires on 26 January.

LEBANON INVITED TO ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE

NC111530 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Jan 80 NC

[Text] Today Lebanon officially received an invitation to the Islamic foreign ministers conference which will discuss the question of Afghanistan.

The Pakistani ambassador to Lebanon today visited Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus and conveyed the invitation to him. The conference will be held on 26 January in Islamabad, the Pakistani capital.

ARMY COMMAND APPOINTS NEW LIAISON OFFICER

NC111200 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1135 GMT 11 Jan 80 NC

[Excerpt] Beirut, 11 January--The Lebanese Army Command has decided to appoint Lt Zuhayr 'Abd as-Samad as liaison officer between the army and the international forces in the eastern sector of southern Lebanon. He succeeds Capt Muhammad Abu Hamin who was transferred to Beirut following reports that he had met with dissident Lebanese Army officer Maj Sa'd Haddad in Marj 'Uyun barracks in the south.

HADDAD SEES NO SPECIAL BORDER MOVES BY SYRIANS

TA160554 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2010 GMT 15 Jan 80 TA

[Text] Metullah, 15 January--"I do not see any special preparations by the Syrians along the Lebanese border beyond their deployment over the last 2 years 3 km northwest of Marj 'Uyun and 12 km from Metullah," Major Haddad, the commander of the militia in southern Lebanon, said today in a meeting with journalists.

Major Haddad added that, if the Syrians decide to go crazy they will begin their war from Lebanon. They will have to fire over the heads of UNIFIL troops. Major Haddad said he was carefully watching Syrian moves in our region.

UN SPOKESMAN DISCUSSES ATTACKS BY BORDER STRIP FORCES

NC152118 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 15 Jan 80 NC

[Text] A UN spokesman in Beirut has stated that the border strip forces opened fire at the Netherlands UN positions in the areas of Sirbin and Yatir. The spokesman said the Netherlands forces returned the fire and silenced the sources of fire. The spokesman added that a UN forces position in Haris came under fire from the border militia. The militia also stopped two vehicles belonging to the Norwegian UN forces in the Al-'Udaysah area after firing at them.

ALGERIA

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR DAMASCUS CONFERENCE

ID152308 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Jan 80 ID

[Text] President Bendjedid today received Foreign Minister Ben Yahia before the latter left for Damascus to attend the ministerial session of the states of the steadfastness and confrontation. Ben Yahia later left Algiers for Damascus.

GRENADA PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES IN ALGIERS

ID152356 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Jan 80 ID

[Text] The prime minister of Grenada, Maurice Bishop, arrived in Algiers this afternoon on an official visit which will last a few days. He was welcomed at the airport by Prime Minister Abdelghani and other ministers.

At the VIP lounge, Mr Bishop made a statement to the national press. He declared that his visit was aimed at strengthening bilateral relations and at studying questions of common interest within the framework of the nonalined movement, to which Algeria and Grenada belong. He added that the two countries achieved closer viewpoints on various political questions on the basis of their progressive anti-imperialist attitudes.

Mr Bishop referred to the importance of trade and economic relations between Algeria and Grenada, explaining that the former exported to his country a volume of trade valued at 12.16 million dinars.

BENDJEDID CHAIRS ADMINISTRATIVE DECENTRALIZATION MEETING

ID151426 Algiers APS in English 1201 GMT 15 Jan 80 ID

[Text] Algiers, 15/1/80 (APS)--President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and FLN Party secretary general presided yesterday over a meeting which gathered the heads of all the regional administrations of the country.

The meeting was devoted to the examination of the results of the recent administrative elections and ways and means to reinforce local administrations in order to achieve decentralisation. Party coordinator, Mohame Salah Yahioui, Prime Minister Mohamed Abdelghani and Interior Minister Boualem Benhamouda attended the meeting.

At the end of the meeting, President Chadli said [as received] his satisfaction with the way the debates were led and the questions raised.

President Chadli insisted on the following points:

--We conceive decentralization as a global one not limited to administration but including decentralization of economic plants and units so as to reach mastership of management and efficiency of control.

--The struggle against social scourges is a permanent and total operation, not a temporary campaign.

--We are convinced that a people who does not grant the necessary importance to this [as received] national language loses respect. Insofar as we are concerned, we are faithful in our Arabity, our Islamic religion and our socialism. We are working on the basis of this faith.

--The political leadership is wholly conscious of its responsi.'lities. To consider tolerance as a weakness is a mistake. Our attitude derives from our commitment regarding our revolution, our motherland and our people.

--Time has come to make a distinction between militants and counter-revolutionaries. This must be clear to everybody.

LIBYA

IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO KUWAIT ARRIVES IN TRIPOLI

LD132306 Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 13 Jan 80 LD

[Text] The Iranian ambassador to Kuwait, Dr 'Ali Shams Ardakani, arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to Libya.

Dr Ardakani made a statement to a JANA correspondent at the airport in which he said that his visit is within the framework of strengthening and bolstering fraternal relations between the Libyan Arab and Iranian peoples.

He explained that there are numerous contacts between the two revolutions which require cooperation and bonds in various fields. He added that any mutual cooperation between the two Muslim countries, the Jamahiriyah and Iran, is a thorn in the side of the traitors and opportunists.

MAURITANIA

AFP NOTES REORGANIZATION EFFORT BY CMSN

AB141115 Paris AFP in French 1830 GMT 11 Jan 80 AB

[Text] Nouakchott, 11 Jan (AFP)--Reorganization of the administration and revitalization of its organs seem to be among the major priorities of the new Military Committee for National Salvation [CMSN], the highest political and legislative body of Mauritania.

At the end of a 10-day plennary session, which was mainly marked by changes in the CMSN and the Government, the adoption of a constitutional charter which puts an end to political bicephalism, the CMSN announced the adoption of a law concerning the abolition of the office of auxiliary military functionaries and of civil servants.

This law, according to the spokesman of the military committee, Navy Lieutenant Dahane Ould Ahmed Mahoud in a press conference last Friday in Nouakchott, will empower the head of state to retire, with the consent of the CMSN, all military or civil servants whose behavior appears incompatible with the necessary reorganization of the administration. He did not indicate whether members of the military committee dismissed last 4 January will be affected by these measures.

State control will be rendered more dynamic and regional controls will be created to fight against waste and embezzlement of state property within the administration, he continued.

The CMSN has also decided to maintain unity in trade unions, that is, the existence of a single organization for all workers and another one for all employers, the spokesman said. Two ad hoc commissions will be appointed to prepare for the holding of a congress for the employers' organization within 3 months and that of workers within 6 months. According to the spokesman of the CMSN, the Mauritanian ruling body had noticed deep divergence both within the employers' union and the workers' trade union, before these decisions were taken.

The workers' union of Mauritania was the only organization affiliated with the former people's party of ex-president Ould Daddah not to have been dissolved on 10 July 1978 when the army took over power.

CHAAB: SOVIET ACTION IN AFGHANISTAN JEOPARDIZES PEACE

AB151810 Nouakchott CHAAB in French 4 Jan 80 pp 1, 9 AB

[Editorial: "A Dangerous Action"]

[Text] The latest events in Afghanistan have given rise to disapproval and indignation the world over. The military intervention of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan constitutes a precedent in Russia's Third World policy and jeopardizes the principles of peaceful coexistence. This large-scale military intervention in a Muslim country of Asia incontestably jeopardizes the laws of international relations.

In fact, it constitutes an act of interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign member state of the UN which should be allowed to solve its own problems without the intervention of any one.

The military escalation in this strategic region of our globe is likely to lead to a highly tense situation that could in turn lead to an international conflict whose consequences are incalculable.

The situation prevailing in this area of the world after the forceful act of the Russians is very alarming, and under the present circumstances gestures and acts of retaliation are plausible because what has just happened in Afghanistan is so dangerous that it could give rise to unforeseeable reactions.

Even if the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan does not contain the risk of an immediate international war, it is likely to disturb peace and stability in the world.

It also constitutes a violation of the United Nations Charter and the right of people to take their destiny into their own hands.

This is why the international community today is rightly preoccupied by the situation prevailing in Afghanistan, a situation that is likely to give rise to a large-scale conflict if it is not controlled.

Such acts, which are contrary to the laws of international relations and exchange, pave the way for all sorts of blameworthy enterprises and acts.

Even if we are convinced that the reaction of the Western world is motivated by the defense of its interests in the region, this action is nevertheless blameworthy because it constitutes an unjustifiable violation of the frontiers of a sovereign state.

SUDAN

SUDAN WILLING TO ATTEND ISLAMIC CONFERENCE 26 JAN

LD141600 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Jan 80 LD/EA

[Summary] During a meeting with the Pakistani ambassador in Khartoum, Sudanese Foreign Minister Rashid at-Tahir Bakr expressed Sudan's readiness to attend the conference of foreign ministers of Islamic countries scheduled for Karachi [as heard] on 26 January to discuss Soviet interference in Afghanistan. The minister also discussed a number of international issues with the ambassador.

YAMANI, NUMAYRI DISCUSS COOPERATION IN ENERGY FIELDS

LD101936 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Jan 80 LD

[Text] The president of the republic, Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, received His Excellency Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, the Saudi minister of petroleum and mineral resources and chairman of the current joint session of the Joint Sudanese-Saudi Organization for the Exploitation of Red Sea Resources, at the People's Palace this morning.

In a statement to SUNA, His Excellency Shaykh Ahmad Zaki said that during his talks with the president, emphasis was laid on the need to strengthen cooperation between the kingdom and Sudan in the mining sphere as the kingdom enters into cooperation with the French Government. He noted that a tripartite commission, comprising Sudan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and France has been set up to draw up a program for prospecting operations in Sudan, which now promises success. Good news may be announced this year, God willing.

He added that the talks had also covered the possibility of cooperation in (?another) existing (sphere) of energy [words indistinct].

He described the work of the current session of the Joint Sudanese-Saudi Organization for the Exploitation of Red Sea Resources as successful, and expressed hope that the extraction and exploitation of the two states' minerals in the Red Sea area would begin in the 1980's.

WESTERN SAHARA

OFFICIAL SAYS 1980 DECISIVE FOR POLISARIO

LD152344 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Jan 80 LD

[Summary] Omar Hadrani, member of the Executive Committee of the POLISARIO Front, yesterday held a press conference in the liberated territory. He said that 1980 will be a decisive year and will witness a large-scale military offensive as well as intensive diplomatic activities aimed at bringing about entry of the SDAR into the OAU. He called on African states which have not yet recognized the SDAR to do so. He also called on Morocco's traditional friends to exert pressure on Rabat so that it would stop ignoring the resolutions of the nonalined countries, the OAU and the United Nations and so that it would enter into negotiations with SDAR.

"Replying to a question about the attitude of France on this, the Saharan official pointed out that the Sahara question was one of decolonization and required a political solution. He said that France was a friend of Morocco and should try to facilitate a political solution to the question of the Western Sahara and should cease supplying Morocco with weapons. He added that the role of France would not be effective unless it established parallel relations with both parties to the conflict, Morocco and the POLISARIO Front.

Hadrani also addressed an urgent appeal to the U.S. Senate not to permit the supply to Morocco of modern American weapons as this would encourage Morocco in its intransigence and would probably lead to the destruction of Morocco. The interest of Morocco lay in termination of this costly war.

Hadrani referred to the defeat suffered by the Moroccan army during the past year, declaring that the Saharan fighters waged 700 military operations and that during them 6,800 Moroccan soldiers were killed, 550 military vehicles were destroyed and 500 others captured. Several Moroccan aircraft were shot down and numerous army garrisons were destroyed.

PFLP'S HABASH VISITS SAHARAN REFUGEE CAMPS

LD160016 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Jan 80 LD

[Text] The leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, George Habash, arrived in Algiers this afternoon to visit the camps of Saharan refugees at the invitation of the POLISARIO Front. He was welcomed at the airport by representatives of the POLISARIO Front, the PLO, the PFLP and high officials in the presidency.

In a statement he explained the aims of the visit: [begin recording]

Primarily, the visit aims at conveying to our brothers and comrades in the POLISARIO Front our appreciation and pride for their valiant struggle and to see in the field their courageous experience which has given reason to all our Palestinian and Arab masses to be proud of this struggle.

Naturally, during this visit we shall make every effort to strengthen and deepen the cooperation between us and the Arab people of the Sahara represented by the POLISARIO Front.

Of course we shall also take this opportunity of visiting the POLISARIO Front to hold talks with our brothers of the revolution of 1 million martyrs [of Algeria], a revolution which stands as a major supporter of our Palestinian people and therefore it is necessary to hold joint talks every now and then about the central question of the Arab nation, the Palestine question.

[Question] How do you evaluate developments in the Middle East, especially after the meeting...[interrupted]

[Answer] In fact, this particular period is witnessing a major escalation in the plans of imperialism throughout the region, given its oil wealth and its strategic position. This makes imperialism desperate to preserve its interests. After the events in Iran and imperialism lost its base there, which was one of the important bases in the region, imperialism increased its ferocity. Thus, we can now see that American imperialism is trying to increase its bases in the region [word indistinct] and contemplating the formation of new forces, such as the 5th fleet and the quick reaction force. This, of course, affects us in the Palestinian revolution and the Eastern region. During the recent Begin-As-Sadat meeting it was clear that they are translating their alliance into the establishment of an aggressive military alliance which aims at challenging the liberation movement in the region and preserving (?imperialist) interests.

Of course, they are proceeding with the same plan which was made at Camp David [words indistinct] imposing autonomy on our people and at the same time escalating the military campaign against the armed Palestinians in Lebanon. Also, As-Sadat [word indistinct] to divide the West Bank from the Gaza sector by gaining acceptance for the plot of self-government for the sector. Of course, our masses and revolution have proved that they are and will be capable of frustrating all these plans. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

BRIEFS

ALGERIAN MINISTER TO USSR--Moscow, 10/1/80 (APS)--Mr Mouloud Oumeziane, Central Committee member and minister of labour and vocational training, is in Moscow since yesterday on an official work visit. "Our stay in the Soviet Union will enable us to embody the Algerian-Soviet cooperation in fields of vocational training, a field which is seen essential by the Central Committee", Mr Oumeziane said in a statement upon departure from Algiers. "In this context, he added, contacts have already been made with the Soviet Union within the Algerian-Soviet joint commission." Mr. Oumeziane further said that while in the USSR, he will visit centres of vocational training in which the Soviet Union has great experience because "it knew a transitory period similar to ours." The labour minister will visit Czechoslovakia after the USSR. [Text] [Algiers APS in English 1206 GMT 10 Jan 80 LD]

ALGERIAN-ANGOLAN TRADE--The Algerian-Angolan talks ended today with the signing of a trade agreement according to which Algeria will export textiles, shoes, tinned food, oil products and wine, and will import coffee, timber, sisal and raw [word indistinct]. The Angolan delegation left Algeris today. [Algiers Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 7 Jan 80 LD]

POLISH-TUNISIAN EXCHANGE--Tunis--Yesterday a Polish-Tunisian cultural cooperation program was signed at the Foreign Ministry. It provides for exchanges in education, culture, youth, sports and information. The program, which is valid for 2 years falls within the agreement of technical and scientific cooperation the two countries signed in 1961, and will serve to strengthen the ties of friendship and mutual respect between Tunisia and Poland. [Text] [Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Jan 80 LD]

BEGIN ASSESSES INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Syrian Threat

TA151235 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 15 Jan 80 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Begin went to the president's house this noon to brief President Navon about his talks in Aswan. The meeting ended a few minutes ago and reporter David Essing talked to the prime minister about remarks he made yesterday about Syria.

[Essing--live] In light of the prime minister's statement yesterday, I asked Mr Begin this morning, after he reported to President Navon, whether there is cause for alarm about a possible threat from Syria and this was the prime minister's answer. [begin recording]

[Begin] No, I said nothing should cause any alarm to us. We are used to difficulties. The fact is that we have a northeastern front. Syria is connected with the Soviet Union. There are Soviet advisers in Syria, there are Soviet sophisticated weapons and there is a continuous delivery of such weapons. Of course, we have to be on our guard, and we are. This is what we should do.

[Question] Do you think there is any connection between what has been happening in Syria and the Soviet move in Afghanistan?

[Answer] I am not so sure. Well, Syria has got her own troubles internally and also externally. They are keeping an occupation army in Lebanon as you know, and, of course, they have a hostile attitude towards Israel, traditionally. They didn't change their attitude, they didn't join the peace-making process. So, not necessarily is there any connection between the Soviet invasion into Afghanistan and the behavior of the Syrians.

[Question] Did you discuss the situation in Syria with President as-Sadat in Aswan?

[Answer] Syria was mentioned.

[Question] Mr Begin, are you concerned about the possibility of the Russians either mounting or encouraging an attack on Israel?

[Answer] We don't have any news about the Russians encouraging an attack and I hope they don't encourage an attack, because Syria doesn't stand any chance to win. They will lose, no doubt whatsoever, if they should attack Israel. Therefore we are not frightened by developments on the Syrian front. We should be very careful and we are. We are on our guard.

[Essing] Prime Minister Begin is to make an important political statement in the Knesset tomorrow. This is David Essing reporting from the president's residence. [end recording]

Afghanistan, Egyptian Relations

TA151651 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 15 Jan 80 TA

[Report on news conference by Israeli Prime Minister Begin on 15 January at the Israeli president's house in Jerusalem after his noon briefing of the president]

[Excerpt] The prime minister answered journalists' questions on three main topics: the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the continuation of the normalization process between Israel and Egypt and the Syrian deployment in the north.

[Begin recording] [Begin] I would not talk about concerns. However, this is the situation. We have a northeastern front. Syria is connected to the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union continues its arms deliveries. These events should be closely followed. I do not think that anyone should be afraid. However, we should be alert and watchful--and this, in fact, is the case.

[Unidentified announcer] The prime minister was asked whether the impact of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was noticeable in our area.

[Begin] The very fact of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan has very much aggravated the international situation. The place you have mentioned has a special significance. It will certainly have an impact on Pakistan. The U.S. aid to Pakistan will have an impact on India--a whole, long chain. Certainly, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan is a very grave event.

[Unidentified announcer] Mr Begin believes that the developments in our area will not disrupt the normalization process between Israel and Egypt.

[Begin] The normalization process is continuing. There are further appointments of committees related to the normalization. There is agreement on general issues, as both President as-Sadat and myself stated in our joint news conference. Well, one should think about the future. This issue already belongs to the past. [end recording]

Other Issues

TA151728 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 Jan 80 TA

[Text] The prime minister has said that had the Iranians seized Soviet diplomats he was certain the Soviet Army would have invaded Iran at once. According to Begin, there is no room for a comparison between the Tehran and the Entebbe affairs. He said that Israel was not giving any advice to the United States. Mr Begin was speaking to a group of Canadian businessmen and his remarks were reported by our correspondent David Essing.

The prime minister expressed his hope that the day would come when the Canadian ambassador would sit in Jerusalem.

Regarding autonomy, the prime minister told the Canadian visitors that in his talks in Aswan he told President as-Sadat he was not proposing giving interpretations to the Camp David accords but to implement them. For instance, he said, it would contradict the Camp David accords if it were suggested that the [autonomy] administration council be granted legislative authority.

'AL HAMISHMAR WELCOMES AUTONOMY IN GAZA STRIP

TA161048 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 16 Jan 80 p 3 TA

[From the "Spotlight" column]

[Text] Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat's appeal to Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin, which was made during the latter's visit to Aswan, to advance the implementation of autonomy in the Gaza Strip before it is implemented in Judaea and Samaria indeed deserves to be accepted. Begin promised that As-Sadat's request would be discussed and decided upon by the Cabinet. However, he has not yet done this. Moreover, according to newspaper reports it seems that Begin and most of the Cabinet ministers are inclined to reject as-Sadat's request with the excuse that it had not been included in the Camp David accords. How can this be so when common sense calls for exactly the opposite reply? Israel's agreement to initially implement the autonomy in the Gaza Strip will in no way affect any of our interests. [paragraph continues]

First of all, the intention is to take this step after an agreement has been reached on the autonomy issue and, as is known, we are still very far from achieving it. In spite of the summit meetings, the negotiations on autonomy have reached a dead end. Even if we assume that agreement is reached on the principles of autonomy, then the attempt to implement it initially in the Gaza Strip is welcome because of the opposition to its implementation in Judaea and Samaria. Hopefully, there will be more readiness in the Gaza Strip to accept such an idea.

In any case, for the time being this would be more of a verbal gesture than anything else. It would be a shame to make such a gesture in order to promote the process of normalization between the two countries.

GAZA MAYOR REJECTS AUTONOMY IN GAZA STRIP

TA161014 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Jan 80 TA

[Text] Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa has completely rejected the Egyptian president's proposal to initially establish autonomy institutions in the Gaza Strip. In an interview with the Beirut paper AN-NAHAR, Ash-Shawwa said the gradual implementation of autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank would deal a blow to the inhabitants of both areas and would divide them. The Gaza mayor is now in Beirut on a private visit. He has already conferred with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

PERES NOTES CHANCES OF AGREEMENT WITH JORDAN, HINTS CONCESSIONS

TA160557 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Jan 80 TA

[Text] Opposition leader Shim'on Peres says that, on the basis of contacts he has had, there is a possibility of an interim agreement with Jordan. This, he said, could also be approved by Saudi Arabia. Speaking to reporters in Jerusalem, Peres hinted that if elected prime minister he would be prepared for wide-ranging concessions on the West Bank to prevent Israel from becoming a binational state.

On another matter, Peres said he would oppose the inclusion of Yitzhaq Rabin in the next Knesset list because, he said, the former premier has no supporters in the Labor Party. He claimed that Rabin did not have what it takes to be prime minister, nor did he know how to behave as former premier. But Peres believed that Jerusalem's Mayor Teddy Kollek should be in the Labor Party leadership.

HA'ARETZ: GOVERNMENT DOES NOT ENDORSE SETTLEMENT

TA150955 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Jan 80 p 1 TA

[By Yehuda Litani]

[Excerpt] The Settlement Department reported yesterday that despite appeals by members of the community nucleus of Giv'on, the government and the Joint Settlement Committee had not yet authorized the establishment of the settlement. There are two Gush Emunim nuclei, relations between whom are tense, in Giv'on. The members of the community nucleus have put pressure on the Settlement Department to appoint an acceptance committee to select candidates. But the department's director, Mati Drobles, refused, saying that as long as there is no authorization for the settlement's establishment, it is not possible to start the absorption processes.

AFGHANISTAN

KARMAL SENDS CONGRATULATIONS TO GANDHI ON ELECTION

LD151957 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Jan 80 LD

[Text] The information department of the Foreign Ministry reported that Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, president of the Revolution Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan sent a congratulatory telegram to her eminence Mrs Indira Gandhi on the occasion of her election victory and appointment as prime minister of the republic of India.

DPFLP'S HAWATIMAH SENDS MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO KARMAL

LD152022 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Jan 80 LD

[Text] The Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DPFLP] has sent a message to Babrak Karmal. It says:

On behalf of the DPFLP Central Committee, I express our complete solidarity with the just struggle of the friendly people of Afghanistan against the hostile activities led by U.S. imperialism aimed at defaming the 1978 Sawr Revolution and its progressive achievements, with you and with the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee. The Palestinian people and all the masses struggling for the sake of freedom, independence and social progress--especially in our region--know well that the clamorous propaganda activities by the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary circles regarding the recent events in Afghanistan have been launched so that U.S. imperialism, in order to be able to carry out its old plans for the creation of military bases to establish its control over the oil resources, [words indistinct] can be a direct danger for the Iranian people. These plans are aimed at preventing the advancement of the forces of liberation and progress of the entire region and at the implementation of the Camp David plan in order to trample the national rights of the Arabs, especially the rights of our Palestinian people.

We decisively support and express solidarity with the people of Afghanistan and their progressive revolution and all the practical measures that your government and party have adopted in order to resist the imperialist and reactionary aggression and interference. We support your reliance on the USSR assistance and solidarity, especially in the military area, which is especially necessary for the independence of Afghanistan and the realization of the rights of its people for greater development, progress and freedom.

We are confident that the activities of U.S. imperialism against the interests of the people of Afghanistan, all the conspiracies by enemy forces which have given their soil for the establishment of bases by counterrevolutionary forces and have opened their borders for aggression against Afghanistan and the counterrevolutionary elements which are receiving the backing and support of the CIA will face failure and will not be able to threaten the national and democratic revolution of Afghanistan.

The forces of reaction, in the first place the As-Sadat regime and its supporter, Zionist Israel, and other imperialist puppet regimes and supporters of the interests of imperialist monopolies and forces which have today expanded their savage activities against Afghanistan are all the same forces that wish to eliminate our Arab liberation movement and our Palestinian revolution. They are also continuing their conspiracies against the people of Lebanon and the unity of their country. Our people and the progressive forces struggle against imperialist, Zionist and reactionary conspiracies believe that the victory of Afghanistan and the consolidation of the position of its revolutionary regime constitute important support for their struggle. No lies or propaganda can blemish the struggle which unites and organizes us for attaining our common aims--freedom, progress and deliverance from the oppression and domination of imperialism.

The judicious revolutionary measures which your government announced have been admired and highly appreciated by our DPFLP, all the progressive and revolutionary forces and all the friends of Afghanistan. The collective leadership of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan is leading its country to certain victory and this is taking place at a time when democratic liberties for the masses of the people through democratic methods and the release of political prisoners who are all democrats and real patriots are being considered. Similarly, the broad Afghan front uniting all the patriotic and progressive forces in the struggle against imperialism, local reaction and foreign counterrevolutionary elements is being formed with the desire to further carry out the progressive reforms of the Sawr Revolution of 1978 and its democratic and patriotic program.

Long live the friendship and common struggle of the peoples of Afghanistan and Palestine! Long live the Sawr Revolution of Afghanistan! Long live the Palestinian revolution!

[Signed] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the DPFLP.

MTI REPORTS STATEMENT BY BABRAK KARMAL

LD161142 Budapest MTI in English 1005 GMT 16 Jan 80 LD

[Text] Budapest, January 16 (MTI)--Karoly Patak, MTI's special correspondent in Kabul reports:

Thousands of revolters laid down their arms in the past days. Thousands marched to the centres designated by the party and the government to hand over their weapons--stated premier Babrak Karmal on Tuesday.

Karmal, who is the president of the Revolutionary Council of Afghanistan and secretary general of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan as well, made a [words indistinct] office to the special correspondents of the socialist and non-aligned countries staying in Kabul. He said that those surrendering their arms greeted the defeat of Hafizollah Amin and accept those changes which were brought by the December 27 turn, the new stage of the revolution.

The new government, he said, is assisted by hundreds of thousands of Muslims within and beyond the borders of Afghanistan. Significant forces are endeavouring to change this situation. American planes daily deliver war materials to neighbouring Pakistan. With this the whole area is endangered--he stated.

The reports asked President Karmal's opinion about those experiments which are made by imperialism at various forums, thus the forum of the world organization as well, for undermining the democratic system. President Babrak called these the provocations and retaliatory measures of the forces which suffered a defeat. The world is witness to these in spite of the fact that--as he said--the new Afghan leadership has made significant new steps for restoring the domestic peace of the country, including the release of thousands of political prisoners. "Progressive people, patriots, democratic nationalists, intellectuals have announced to the new power that they are ready to cooperate with the national front being established now, the aim of which is the protection of the social achievements of the revolution. The cooperation of the national democratic forces and those opposing imperialism is the order of our era," declared Babrak Karmal.

The leader of Afghanistan voiced his complete optimism when asked about his opinion of the future joint opposition against the forces of reaction by the peoples of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. "Afghanistan"--said Karmal in conclusion--"firmly protects the just cause of its revolution."

INDIA

TEHRAN REPORTS KHOMEYNI ENVOY'S ARRIVAL IN BOMBAY

JN151604 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Jan 80 JN

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Nuri, special representative to the leader of the Islamic Iranian Revolution, arrived in Bombay today to acquaint the Indian people with the Islamic Iranian Revolution and its aims.

Ayatollah Imam Nuri's visit will last for 1 week. He is scheduled to deliver a speech in Bombay tomorrow.

Pursuit of Shah Continues

LD152258 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 2200 GMT 15 Jan 80 LD

[Text] Ayatollah Nuri, special envoy of Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeyni, has said that notwithstanding endeavors by the United States and other Western countries to impose economic sanctions, the people of Iran will not relent in their struggle to secure extradition of the deposed shah. Ayatollah Nuri, now on a visit to this country, was talking to newsmen in Bombay. The ayatollah said Iran would abrogate all agreements with foreign countries which are aimed at exploiting the people of their country, as he put it. He described Iran's relations with India as good and expressed his country's desire to have the best of relations with countries opposed to imperialism and colonialism.

DELHI REPORTS ON U.S. AID TO PAKISTAN

BK141629 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Jan 80 BK

[Text] The U.S. President, Mr Carter, is reported to have tentatively approved 400 million dollars in military and economic aid to Pakistan. The aid will begin immediately if Congress gives its assent.

An AP report quoting an administration source in Washington says that the weapons will include anti-aircraft equipments and C-130 cargo transport planes.

ISI: GROMYKO TO VISIT, DISCUSS U.S. ARMS TO PAKISTAN

HK151554 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1440 GMT 15 Jan 80 HK

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko is expected to pay a visit to India soon, reports UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA]:

Replying to a question, spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said Gromyko was to be here any time between January 22 and the end of the month. During his stay, Gromyko will meet Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and other government leaders including External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

Various bilateral and international issues including developments in Afghanistan and arms supply to Pakistan by the United States and China will figure during Gromyko's talks with Indian leaders.

DELHI RADIO ON CONTACTS WITH PAKISTAN, GROMYKO VISIT

HK151631 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Jan 80 HK

[Excerpts] On the second day of its office, the new government has taken major decisions on the domestic and external fronts. The union cabinet in its first formal meeting today decided to extend reservation [of seats] for schedule castes and tribes in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies for another 10 years. The reservation was to lapse on the 25th of this month.

Among the first steps of the new government on the external front, is an exchange of views with Pakistan through diplomatic channels to explore possibilities of stabilizing the situation in the region. The Indian ambassador to Pakistan, Mr K.S. Bajpai, who has been called in for consultations, is flying back to his post tomorrow with a message from the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, for President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan.

Mr Bajpai, who has been in touch with the Pakistan Government at the highest level before coming to India, met the prime minister, the external affairs minister and the foreign secretary during his visit to New Delhi.

The AIR [All India Radio] correspondent says he gave them a detailed briefing about the developments in Pakistan and Pakistan's relations with the United States, China and Afghanistan. Pakistan's ambassador in New Delhi, Mr Abdul Stattar, has also been in touch with the Indian foreign office about these developments.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi this evening that the two sides are analyzing developments in the region and are trying to understand each other's anxieties and concern.

Asked whether there is hesitation in Pakistan about accepting fresh arms from the United States, the spokesman said the government has seen reports to this effects. India, he said, has expressed concern about induction of arms into Pakistan.

In reply to a question by a foreign correspondent, he reaffirmed that India is adverse to any defense treaty with Pakistan or any other country. Its aim is to have complete normalization of relations with Pakistan.

The new government will be playing host to three top dignitaries from abroad in the next few days. The British foreign secretary, Lord Carrington, is due in the capital tomorrow as part of his tour of several West Asian and South Asian countries. He will be heading a nine-member delegation and an exchange of views is fixed for it for Thursday [17 January]. The Indian side will be led by the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narsimha Rao.

Our correspondent says: It will be Mr Rao's first important engagement with a foreign dignitary after assuming office.

The French president, Mr Giscard d'Estaing, is paying a state visit to this country for 5-days beginning from the 25th.

AFP Report

OW151409 Hong Kong AFP in English 1220 GMT 15 Jan 80 OW

[Exerpts] New Delhi, Jan 15 (AFP)--India today announced that high-level diplomatic contacts were under way with Pakistan in a bid to stabilize the situation on the subcontinent, rocked by the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said both countries' ambassadors had been in touch with the highest officials here and in Islamabad.

The Foreign Ministry announcement coincided with the visit to the subcontinent by British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington, who is to arrive here from Islamabad tomorrow. It heightened speculation that Lord Carrington may be in the process of trying to engineer some kind of rapprochement between India and Pakistan which have fought two wars since the end of British rule. Area specialists have speculated that Lord Carrington may be trying to lay the groundwork for a comprehensive Indian-Pakistani friendship agreement.

Such an agreement, analysts point out, would discourage interference in the region by all outside powers, serving notice on both the Soviet Union and the United States, which Mrs Gandhi has blamed for initial destabilization. It would also clear the way for a more cogent Western response to the Soviet Union, which has been able to count on India's fear of a rearmed Pakistan as a brake on retaliatory measures.

SFRY'S BORBA INTERVIEWS PRIME MINISTER GANDHI

AU160125 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 11 Jan 80 p 8 AU

[Gordana Brajovic report on the interview granted by Indira Gandhi to Borba and Vecernje Novosti in New Delhi on 9 January]

[Text] New Delhi, 10 January--Indira Gandhi has returned in a way as only great leaders do. It seems that India has never been with her in greater numbers. Millions of voters or, in the language of numbers, a two-thirds majority of them have placed themselves under the symbol of her Congress Party.

And as though the fact that they dropped their ballots into the boxes bearing the symbol of "hand" has not been enough for them, since Sunday night, that is, since the reports on the first results, they have been literally running down (wilingon crescendo) streets presenting their oral messages, wishes, flowers and wreaths.

India is on its feet. India is with Indira.

"Our victory has been so triumphal because the people are with us," Indira Gandhi said to us when she received us in her residence.

While scores and scores of journalists from India and the world have been besieging her residence for days, she decided in favor of a Yugoslav journalist and granted an interview to BORBA and Vecernje Novosti.

Friendship

Yesterday afternoon, where a veritable oriental festival was taking place in front of her house, she received us in the room where her interlocutors change all the time: They range from the peasants coming to her to complain over injustices to relatives and her associates and future ministers. Even her opponents are coming with flowers. A Kashmir wood carving, a picture of a boy with a bird (a gift from Mexico) and the always present portrait of Jawaharlal Nehru. [sentence as published] Her son Sanjay is receiving congratulations from young people and she asks us to the table. Even though she is tired, she is nevertheless smiling.

We do not even ask a question. Indira spontaneously begins to speak about President Tito and the friendship between the two nonalined countries and about the nonalined movement about which she says that it has been never stronger.

"India and Yugoslavia are linked by ties of a traditional and extraordinary friendship," she, who will officially become the new Indian prime minister as early as tomorrow, says.

"President Tito and I are good friends on a personal level also," Indira says to us and then adds: "I want to send through your newspapers my best wishes to President Tito for the new year and the new decade. Give my greetings to the Yugoslav peoples."

We are confronted with a shortage of time and questions and answers follow each other in quick succession. The first question imposed itself: Can she solve the riddle of the outcome of the voting when, according to the most optimistic predictions of a majority of impartial observers and even of her sympathizers, only a possible victory with simple majority could be expected.

"The reason is clear," Indira answers. "The people have been always with us. At the last elections the Janata Party succeeded in misleading them. The Janata Party hoped that the people would continue to believe it for a long time. But the people 'saw through it' and the people soon again turned to us. Immediately after the 1977 parliamentary elections, that is, only 2 months later in the elections for the state assemblies the candidates of my party had already won a large majority.

"And you see now especially in these elections the people demonstrated how much they are with us. It has become evident that the Janata Party is anti-people, that it is against the people."

A new Congress Party government is one the eve of its formation. On Friday the parliamentarians of the victorious Congress Party will meet to elect their leader, that is, the prime minister. We ask Indira Gandhi whether she will be elected or, as has been heard, it will be one of her associates who will be elected.

[Answer] "Yes, it will be me if my party elects me."

Against All Interferences

"What will be the basic task of the new Congress Party government?" we ask the future prime minister.

"The main problem is poverty and the main task is to eradicate it," Indira replies, confirming the assumption that her great victory and that of her party is a victory of the poor.

"However, what is most important and most urgent at this time is to restore law and order in the country. Law and order ceased to exist during the period of the Janata Party's rule and crimes, violence, murders were increasing.... And what the people want the most now is security because it is only when they are safe that they can think about enjoying other rights and solve other problems."

[Question] "The victory of your party has been only just announced and, as we see, prices have begun to fall quickly."

[Answer] "Yes, you are right. Reports about my victory alone have been enough for the prices to begin to fall. That is good. However, we still have to work seriously on solving the problem. It is the poor people who suffer the most from the abnormally high prices."

During the period of the Janata Party rule Indira Gandhi was twice arrested; she was expelled from the parliament and several court proceedings have been initiated against her and her family. None of the charges was ever proved. Having been persecuted, will Indira now perhaps embark on a path of revenge, as has been heard?

[Answer] "No, I am not one of those people who take revenge. I was not their victim. They are victims of their own policy."

There is only enough time left for us to ask her to comment on the situation in Southern Asia after the Soviet military action in Afghanistan.

[Answer] "Yes, the situation is very serious. It can be dangerous. As a nonalined country, we rely on ourselves. We have no reason to be afraid. What is important for us is to strengthen our unity. We are--I repeat--against all interventions and interferences because one interference provokes another."

CABINET MEMBERS ALLOCATED ADDITIONAL PORTFOLIOS

BK160654 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 16 Jan 80 BK

[Text] Eight cabinet ministers have been given additional charge of unallocated portfolios for a temporary period.

Finance Minister R. Venkataramn will hold the portfolio of industry; Minister for Works and Housing P.C. Sethi--petroleum and chemicals; Minister for Energy and Irrigation A. Khan Chaudhury--department of coal; Minister of Education B. Shankaranand--health and social welfare; Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Bhisma Narain Singh--communications; Commerce Minister Pranab Mukerjee--steel, mines and civil supplies; Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation J.B. Patnaik--labor; and Minister for Information and Broadcasting V.P. Sathe--supply and rehabilitation.

Minister of State for Home Affairs P. Venkatasubbiah will also be the minister of state for parliamentary affairs.

Ministers Indicate Priorities

BK150857 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0840 GMT 15 Jan 80 BK

[Text] Escorted by her aides, new PM Mrs Indira Gandhi arrived at lunch time and occupied the swivel chair in the prime minister's office in south block on January 14, reports AIR [All India Radio]. Talking to newsmen after taking over office, union Law Minister Shiv Shankar said that he would try to repeal the Special Courts Act after disposal of certain cases now before the Supreme Court and other courts. He would accord highest priority [as received].

Union Finance Minister Venkataraman and Minister of State Jagnath Pahadia met senior officials of the Finance Ministry who were told that preparation of the annual budget for 1980-81 was one of most immediate tasks. Talking to newsmen, Information and Broadcasting Minister Vasant Sathe said that everyone connected with the mass media should get fair deal.

Addressing senior officials of his ministry, Pranab Mukherjee, commerce minister, said that the topmost priority would be given to export promotion.

Talking to newsmen, Energy and Irrigation Minister A. Ghani Khan Chowdhury said that the new government at the centre would lay more emphasis on extension of rural electrification, adequate generation and proper distribution of power. Works and Housing Minister P.C. Sethi said the new government would pay greater attention to the problems of slums and the improvement in living conditions of slum dwellers.

Special Courts Acts Scored

BK150304 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Jan 80 BK

[Text] Union Law Minister Shiv Shankar has said that he will try to repeal the Special Courts Act after the disposal of certain cases now before the supreme court and other courts. Talking to newsmen after taking over office, Mr Shiv Shankar said that he will accord the highest priority to the provision of legal aid to the poor.

Later at a meeting with senior officials of his ministry, Mr Shiv Shankar said that he is keen on bringing about a reorientation of the judicial system so that the people can obtain justice expeditiously.

PRESIDENT SUMMONS PARLIAMENT MEETING 21 JANUARY

BK151354 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Jan 80 BK

[Text] The president has summoned the Lok Sabha to meet on the 21st of this month. The session is likely to continue till the second of next month.

PRO-BEIJING PARTY URGES SUPPORT OF PRC AGAINST USSR

BK141745 Hong Kong AFP in English 1721 GMT 14 Jan 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 14 Jan (AFP)--The Naxalites or pro-Peking extremist communists have called for support to China in its fight against "Soviet imperialism" by all forces who stood for peace, independence and democracy.

The United Centre of the Communist Revolutionaries of India (Marxist-Leninist), which is one of the seven Naxalite factions, today strongly attacked the Soviet Union for its "aggression" against Afghanistan.

Reports quoted a spokesman of the organization as saying in Hyderabad, South India, that China's steps were aimed at maintaining peace, independence of nations and defence of socialism.

SPECIAL COURT HAS NO JURISDICTION TO TRY MRS GANDHI

BK150912 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 15 Jan 80 BK

[Text] The special court of Mr Justice M. L. Jain has ruled that it has no jurisdiction to try Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Mr R. K. Dhawan and Mr D. Sen in the Maruti case. The court held that the creation and establishment of the special court and the declaration to try her and others were not made in accordance with the constitution.

In another ruling, the court also said it has no jurisdiction to try Mrs Gandhi and Mr Dhawan and the former DIG [Deputy Inspector General] of the Delhi police, Mr G. S. Bhinder, in the Bhimsen Sachar case. The court ordered that subject to the opinion of the Supreme Court, the Maruti case be sent back to the chief metropolitan magistrate, Delhi, and in the Sachar detention case the prosecution should take stpes as advisable under the law.

PAPER CALLS ON GANDHI TO RECOGNIZE HENG SAMRIN

BK151534 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1438 GMT 15 Jan 80 BK

["Editorial Roundup for 15 January"]

[Text] Most papers have commented on Mrs Gandhi's cabinet. TIMES OF INDIA describes it "by and large a balanced and competent one" and "all regional and sectional interests have been given due representation" but not at the cost of [word indistinct].

The prime minister, the PATRIOT writes, has "given priority to experience tampered with unflinching loyalty." The paper commends the prime minister's finesse with which she has kept out for the time being some controversial loyalists.

The new foreign minister should make an impressive start by implementation of the commitment in the party's election manifesto regarding recognition of the Heng Samrin government in Kampuchea. The TRIBUNE says that recognition of steadfast loyalty to the leader is among the more discernable features of the cabinet and observes that those who have been left out of the cabinet for the time being make as much news as those who have been included. The INDIAN EXPRESS calls the prime minister's cabinet of surprises.

While commenting on the cabinet, HINDUSTAN TIMES refers also to the prime minister's broadcast to the nation on Monday night January 14. The paper welcomes her call for all to work together.

NEPAL

FOREIGN MINISTER, OTHER MINISTERS RESIGN AT END OF TERM

BK141521 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 14 Jan 80 BK

[Text] His Majesty the King has on the recommendation of the prime minister accepted the resignations of the Minister of Industry and Commerce and Tourism, Mr Hari Narayan Rajauria; the foreign and communications minister, Mr K. B. Shahi; the minister of state for health, Mr Birendra Bahadur Singh; the assistant foreign minister, Mr Ang Dandi Lama; the assistant irrigation minister, Mr. Satrughana Prasad Singh Yadav; and the assistant home Panchayat minister, Mr. Kasir Nath Josh.

His Majesty the King has thanked them for honestly discharging their duties.

The resignation submitted to the prime minister said that they were resigning as their term of membership of the Rashtriya Panchayat was ending today. This was stated in a notice published by the principal press secretariat of His Majesty the King.

King Reappoints Shahi

BK151059 Hong Kong AFP in English 1045 GMT 15 Jan 80 BK

[Text] Katmandu, 15 Jan (AFP)--King Birendra of Nepal today reappointed K. B. Shahi as foreign minister and nominated him to the Nepalese national legislature.

Mr. Shahi and six other ministers, including Commerce and Industry Minister H. N. Rajauria and State Minister for Health Birendra Bahadur Singh, had resigned Monday evening following the expiry of their terms in the national legislature. Mr. Shahi had been elected member of the legislature from Lumbini.

On the recommendations of the Election Commission the King has suspended the ensuing elections in three zones--Seti, Sagarmatha and Lumbini--three of the total 14 zones, but has extended the terms of memberships of village, town and district Panchayat till the proposed national referendum.

According to the official announcement the composition of the Council of Ministers headed by Surya Bahadur Thapa is 22, with six cabinet rank ministers, five ministers of state, and eleven assistant ministers.

Contrary to wild rumours in Katmandu none of the new ministers were inducted and this has weakened the position of Mr. Thapa's government against the political opponents of the partyless panchayat system, control of administrative corruption and stabilizing the local market.

Meanwhile, the king has allocated the portfolios of the outgoing ministers to the remaining ministers. Among them significant allocations are the defence and health protfolios to Balaram Gvharti Magar; water, power, irrigations, law and justice to Marich Man Singh; foreign to Mr. Shahi.

Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thuapa handles his usual portfolios of finance, and royal palace affairs, among the members of the present Council of Ministers only Home Minister Jog Mehar Shrestha is considered as a political figure, two assistant ministers were assigned under him share his responsibility.

PAKISTAN

AFP: HAQ THREATENS MILITARY ACTION IF SOVIETS CROSS FRONTIER

BK151517 Hong Kong AFP in English 1510 GMT 15 Jan 80 BK

[Text] Islamabad, 15 Jan (AFP)--Soviet troops pursuing Afghan rebels will come under fire from the Pakistani Army if they cross the frontier, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq warned today.

"When a foreigner enters your border you do not kiss him on the cheek," he told newsmen here.

This is the first time General Zia has mentioned possible military action against Soviet troops since the Moscow-engineered coup in Afghanistan on December 27.

Previous incursions by Afghan soldiers were countered by diplomatic action rather than shooting, observers recalled.

General Zia ruled out possible Pakistani aid to Moslem rebels fighting the Red Army. To help them would be an interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, which Pakistan did not wish, he said.

KARACHI QUOTES PRESIDENT ON AFGHANISTAN, USSR, ARMS AID

BK151636 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Jan 80 BK

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that the great geopolitical change that has taken place in the region as a result of Soviet intervention in Afghanistan demands that the whole world, especially those countries who want stability in the world, to realize the serious consequences of this action. He was addressing a crowded news conference in Rawalpindi this afternoon which was well attended by foreign correspondents.

He said the geopolitical importance of the region demands that a strict vigil be kept on the developments in the areas. He said the intervention in Afghanistan cannot be termed purely as an acquisition of a territory devoid of national resources.

After a brief statement on the continuing developments in the region, the president invited questions from the journalists.

In reply to a question, he said the aim of holding an Islamic foreign ministers' conference in Islamabad is to discuss the situation developing in a Muslim country, which is also a member of the nonalined movement, as a result of the intervention. He expressed the hope that the conference would result in evolving joint steps for coping with the situation. He said no special economic or military plan will be discussed at the Islamic foreign minister's conference. The president emphasized that Pakistan has no desire to create any enemy nor produce alarm in the country. He said, however, that the nation is determined to fully protect its borders.

In reply to another question, he said the Soviet Union, a superpower, now has great influence in the region, and we as a neighbor desire better understanding and harmony with the Soviet Union.

Replying to a question on whether there has been any overture from the Soviet Union about relations with Pakistan, he said yes, this has taken place. This is a continuing process. He said it would be untimely to say anything on this matter now.

He stressed that we want good relations with all countries, especially neighboring states, and have no evil or aggressive designs against any country, big or small.

He said we have maintained ties with India and that he has had personal talks with Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi. He expressed the hope that she will continue efforts to bring about normalcy in relations, a process begun by the previous Government of India.

In reply to a question, the president said in unmistakable terms that he will not permit Afghan freedom fighters to use Pakistan soil as a sanctuary nor convert it into a base for subversive acts on Afghan territory. This attitude is in line with Pakistan's policy of not interfering in anyone's internal affairs nor allowing anybody to intervene in our affairs.

The president was asked several questions on the announcement of U.S. aid to Pakistan and reports carried by U.S. media in this connection. In reply, the president said that we have not as yet officially received word what the U.S. plan is in this respect. We have held initial talks, and it remains to be seen how the talks will progress. Any other views are just (?speculation). But he did say that the talks till now have been constructive.

In reply to a question, the president emphasized that Pakistan has not till now asked for any supply of military arms from the United States. He said that we are still awaiting a reply to clarifications sought from the United States. We hope that if the United States decides to supply aid to Pakistan it will be without any strings. He said he has drawn this conclusion from the letters exchanged with President Carter and the talks held between the adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi, and U.S. leaders. He also expressed the hope that U.S. aid to Pakistan will not be against the national interests of either Pakistan or the United States.

Answering another question, the president said we do not have to ask China for military assistance. China has already given us political, military and economic aid. Further assistance is dependent on talks with China. The upcoming visit of the Chinese foreign mininster to Pakistan has no relation to the recent visit of the U.S. defense secretary to China. The program of the Chinese foreign minister's upcoming visit to Pakistan was evolved much earlier and this is a return visit.

About the present visit of the British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington to Pakistan, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said as far he knows the visit is aimed at a complete reivew of the situation in the region and to ascertain the views and feelings of the countries concerned. He said Britain was of the view--at the end of the 19th century and during the 20th century--that Afghanistan would remain a buffer state. Western nations still place great importance to Britain's views about this region. Hence, Britain can play a major role in ascertaining developments in the region.

When asked about threat or danger to Baluchistan resulting from the developments in Afghanistan, he said the people of Baluchistan are fully conscious of their responsibilities as they see the growing danger. They are as patriotic as any other Pakistanis. He drew attention to the fact that the people of Baluchistan and the northwest frontier province supported the establishment of the Islamic state of Pakistan by a large majority.

Replying to a question about Afghan refugees, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said they have placed a heavy burden on Pakistan, which is already facing economic hardships. He said the number of Afghan refugees has reached nearly half a million and is expected to reach 1 million by March. He said Pakistan so far has been looking after the Afghan refugees with its own resources and on purely humanitarian grounds. However, only recently the United Nations and fraternal Islamic states and other countries have provided some assistance which is just a drop in the ocean. He urged the world community to provide assistance to these deserving helpless people who have taken shelter in Pakistan in order to preserve their freedom and faith. He said the problem is not only Pakistan's, but that of the whole free world.

At the news conference that president was also asked about the political evolution in Pakistan. He said the military regime in Pakistan does not want to perpetuate itself. They have already taken steps for political evolution in the country by providing democracy at the grass roots level. They have set up this administration after a gap of 15 years and held elections at local and district levels. He emphasized that they have laid down this foundation on which future democratic institutions could be built. He said this process will be completed with the formation of provincial and federal governments.

TALKS HELD BETWEEN HAQ, BRITAIN'S LORD CARRINGTON

BK151730 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 15 Jan 80 BK

[Text] Talks between the visiting British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, Lord Carrington, and the adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi, were held in Islamabad today.

They exchanged views on regional developments and other matters of mutual interest. They also discussed bilateral relations at the talks lasting about 5 hours--Lord Carrington was assisted by the British ambassador to Pakistan, Mr (A.G. Foster) and some senior British officials. Mr Agha Shahi was assisted by the foreign secretary, Mr. S. Shahnawaz, and other senior officials. The Pakistan ambassador to Britain, Brig. retired F.R. Khan, was also present.

Lord Carrington called on the president, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, in Rawalpindi this evening. The president hosted a dinner for the British foreign minister.

Loan Agreement Signed

BK151731 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 15 Jan 80 BK

[Text] Britain has provided to Pakistan a grant of 9.6 million pounds, equivalent to $21.6 million for the purchase of three cargo ships to be built in Britain for the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation. An agreement to this effect was signed in Islamabad today by the Pakistan finance minister, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan and the British foreign and commonwealth secretary, Lord Carrington, on behalf of their respective governments.

Carrington Visits Afghan Border

BK160814 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 16 Jan 80 BK

[Text] British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington arrived in Peshawar this morning on the second day of his visit to Pakistan. The president's adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi, accompanied him.

A short while ago, he visited Torkham after passing through the Khyber Pass where he saw the Pakistan-Afghan border. Mr Agha Shahi and Northwest Frontier Province Governor Lt Gen Fazle Haq also accompanied him.

At Landi Kotal's Khyber Pass mess Lord Carrington was told about the Afghan refugee situation in detail. The Northwest Frontier Province refugees commissioner told Lord Carrington and journalists accompanying him about difficulties in supporting 360,000 refugees. The refugees commissioner also said that this number represents only registered refugees. There are another 20,000 to 25,000 refugees who have not been registered so far.

Lt Gen Fazle Haq answered foreign journalists' questions about the Afghan refugees. He said that at the rate of the refugee influx, it is feared that by April their number will reach the 1 million mark.

UAE VICE PRESIDENT ARRIVES IN KARACHI 15 JANUARY

BK151139 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT Jan 80 BK

[Text] The vice president and prime minister of the United Arab Emirates, Shaykh Rashid ibn Sa'id al-Maktum, arrived in Karachi this morning on a visit to Pakistan. He was received at the airport by the Sind governor, Lt Gen S.M. Abbasi.

KARACHI PAPER ON DOMESTIC REACTION TO SOVIETS IN AFGHANISTAN

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 4 Jan 80 pp 1, 8 WA

[Article by staff reporter: "Soviet Action A Threat to Pakistan"]

[Text] A strong public opinion is building up against the Russian occupation of Afghanistan and the atrocities perpetrated by Soviet forces on the Muslims of that country.

Members of the elite groups, workers and students have all come out with indignant statements against the atrocities perpetrated by the Russians on the Muslim population, and have demanded immediate withdrawal of the foreign army from the Afghan soil.

Idara Ittahad-ul-Islamia [Office of Islamic Unity] said here in a press statement yesterday that the Russian occupation of Afghanistan posed a direct threat to the security of Pakistan in particular and to the Muslim world in general.

An emergency session of the Idara, presided over by its president, Mr Anwar Ahmad Jalees, appealed to all the Muslim countries to recall their ambassadors from Russian in protest, and also exhorted them to boycott Soviet Union in every sphere.

The statement said that the Russian imperialists were emboldened in their adventurism by the silence the world maintained on the Russian intervention there for 11 months.

It further said that in this hour of crisis the entire nation stood solidly behind President Ziaul Haq.

KPT Workers' Demand

The Organisation of Karachi Port Trust Workers said in a statement here that if the Russians did not put a stop to their atrocities on the Muslims in Afghanistan and withdraw immediately it would no more remain possible for the workers at the port to handle goods meant for Afghanistan.

The General Secretary of the Organisation, Mr Abdul Haque Kausar, said in his statement that perhaps the Karachi port workers were the only ones in this region who served Afghanistan along with their own country but the bloodbath given to Afghan Muslims by the Russian army was intolerably disturbing to their brethren-in-faith in Pakistan. Mr Kausar demanded that Russian should vacate Afghanistan and people there should be left alone to form a government of their own choosing.

Students Angry

Various students organisations of Karachi also expressed their extreme indignation at the intervention in Afghanistan by the Russian army.

Mr H. Jamil Ahmad Siddiqui, chairman of Democratic Students Federation, Pakistan, in his statement, said that the Russian penetration into Afghanistan was part of the unholy design of the big powers to devour smaller countries.

The joint statement, issued by Mr Mohammad Barkatullah, chairman, I.C.B., Mr Nisar Ahmad Khan, chairman ad hoc committee of D.S.F. Karachi and vice-president of the Federal Government Urdu College Union, Miss Razia Sultana of Sir Syed Girls College, Miss Urooj Fatima of Urdu College, Miss Samina Kausar of Karachi College for Women and Mr Javed Rizvi, a student leader of Karachi Polytechnic Shershah, said that the Russian move in Afghanistan might lead to a global conflagration.

The students demanded the immediate withdrawal of all Russian forces from Afghanistan and urged all the pesce-loving nations in the world as well as the United Nations to check the Russians from pursuing their nefarious game.

SOVIET CONSUL DEPENDS POLICY FROM 'HOSTILE' REPORTS

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 5 Jan 80 p 4 WA

[From Letters to the Editor section under headline 'Clarification']

[Text] Sir: A news item carried by certain Karachi papers ascribes to the Soviet military contingents now in Afghanistan at the request of the Afghan government, actions allegedly directed against Muslim population of Kabul.

Such stories are absolutely baseless and are obviously directed at provoking the Muslim people of Pakistan against the USSR. It is categorically stated that Soviet policy at home and abroad has never been and is not directed against or linked with any particular religion.

It should be known by all that the Soviet Constitution guarantees to all the citizen of the Soviet state absolute freedom of religious belief.

Ample testimony to this fact was provided by the members of Pakistani delegation headed by Mr Mahmoud A. Haroon, minister for interior, and religious affairs. While referring after the delegation's recent visit to the USSR, Mr. Haroon said: "Muslims in the the USSR are not discriminated against. Their rights are guaranteed by the Soviet Constitution. We visited mosques, Islamic libraries, and saw believers performing their namaz. The mosques are kept in good order and regularly restored, as are the madrasahs, tombs, and other Muslim monuments of the past."

The facts about the life of the Soviet people, believers and non-believer, those professing Islam in particular are not a secret for anyone.

Koran is being regularly published by Muslim Religious Organisations of the USSR. Only in recent years it was reprinted six times. It may be mentioned in particular that in the USSR in connection with the celebrations by Soviet Muslims of the 15th century of hejira, dozens of new mosques have been constructed, and old ones renovated. A massive edition of Quran has been put out.

Incidentally, the publishing activities of the Muslim organizations in the USSR are not confined to printing of Quran. Every year these organizations put out a number of books, magazines, lunar calendars, etc. The state allocates paper to the Muslim organizations, which have their own printing facilities. This enables them to carry on their publishing activities.

For instance, besides the Quran, the Muslim Board of Central Asia and Kazakhistan has published collections of Hadiths compiled by the world-famous theologian and collector of the Prophet's pronouncements, Imam al-Bukhari's al-Adab al-Mufrad, Sahih al-Bukhari and as-Sulasiyat. Mufti Ziayautdin Khan ibn Ishan Babakhan has written introductions to the new editions of the collections al-Adab al-Mufrad and Sahih al-Bukhair.

It may be recalled here that the previous manuscript of Quran calligraphed by Caliph Othman forcibly taken away from the Muslim of Central Asia by Tsarist authorities in 1904, before socialist revolution was returned to the Muslims under orders by the founder of the Soviet Communist Party V.I. Lenin, immediately after the October Revolution of 1917.

It is pertinent to remind here also that in accordance with the decree adopted on Lenin's initiative Muslims were granted civil rights enjoyed by all other Soviet citizens and Islam was accorded an equal status with the other religions of the country.

It is my sincere hope that media in Pakistan would not be carried away by such hostile and irresponsible reports which are detrimental to the cause of good relations between the peoples of Pakistan and the USSR.

[Signed] V.A. Lavrov, Consul

SRI LANKA

FREEDOM PARTY CALLS FOR REDUCTION OF BIG POWER PRESENCE

BK141433 Hong Kong AFP in English 1331 GMT 14 Jan 80 BK

[Text] Colombo 14 Jan (AFP)--The Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) of former Prime Minister Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike said today the earliest withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and the dismantling of bases (American) like Diego Garcia will ease tension in this region.

A statement issued by the party's General Secretary Rantasiri Nickramanayaka said the SLFP views with grave concern the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

The statement said it is an internationally accepted principle that no country should interfere in the internal affairs of another country, moreso by dispatching troops. This is also a cardinal principle of the non-aligned movement, it added.

The SLFP notes that the situation in Iran and Afghanistan and the strengthening of the Diego Garcia base by the U.S. have led to the two power blocks straining to increase their military presence and to enhance fight potential in the South Asian region, in particular in the littoral states of the Indian Ocean, the statement said.

"We fear that this situation may result in nullifying the UN resolution to make the Indian Ocean a peace zone" it said. It is the view of the SLFP that the only way to [word indistinct] the situation and maintain peace, stability and security in this region is for both power blocks to desist from military expansion, the statement said.

In this context, the SLFP said, the earliest withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and the dismantling of bases like Diego Garcia will contribute to ease the tension and assist in maintaining peace and security in this region.

MUSLIMS CONDEMN SOVIET AFGHANISTAN INTERFERENCE

BK151607 Hong Kong AFP in English 1541 GMT 15 Jan 80 BK

[Text] Colombo 15 Jan (AFP)--The Soviet intervention in Afghanistan was condemned here today at a public meeting organised by the All-Ceylon Muslim League, one of the leading Muslim organisations in the country. The meeting held at the premises of Zahira College, Colombo, the premier Muslim school in Sri Lanka, was addressed by several leading Muslims. An effigy of Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev was burned at the same premises before the meeting by members of an association called "The Organisation to Support the Islamic Revolution in Iran."